

Report Explains U.S. Intelligence Failures

Vest Served on Intelligence Commission

By Kelley Rivoire
NEWS EDITOR

The Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction, charged with analyzing U.S. intelligence failures and suggesting improvements, released a report to President George W. Bush yesterday.

The commissioners attribute failures in intelligence to a lack of good data and proper analysis of data, as well as a lack of collaboration between different intelligence agencies. They suggest a large number of recommendations to improve intelligence,

“all but a handful of which we believe can be implemented without statutory change,” according to the report.

Former MIT President Charles M. Vest was one of eight commissioners and two co-chairmen serving on the commission. Other commissioners included Yale President Richard C. Levin and Senator John McCain.

“The report was unanimously agreed to by all commissioners. I am quite satisfied that my views, concerns, and inputs are appropriately reflected in our report,” Vest wrote in

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STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Amber Sivett of Regis University, left, tags out Amanda N. Poteet '08 at third base on a double steal attempt on Wednesday, March 30, during the women's softball home opener. MIT won 6–2, bringing their record to 3–6 for the season.

Broken Elevator Nets Burton Residents TechCash

By Marie Y. Thibault
STAFF REPORTER

Residents of the Burton side of Burton Conner House recently received monetary compensation as a result of being inconvenienced by a chronically broken elevator.

The amount of money given to Burton residents totaled about \$5,500, said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. Twenty-five dollars were added to the TechCash accounts of students living on the first through fourth floors, while students living on the fifth floor received thirty dollars.

Benedict said he did not think the monetary compensation set a precedent. He said this situation was unusual, because it “went on and on.”

The elevator did not work this academic year until October 5 and then broke down two or three times per week in the period between October 5 and spring break, said Mark D. Egan '07, a Burton resident. In total, he said, the elevator was broken for half the school year. The elevator was fixed just before spring break and has been working since, he said.

Egan, who lives on the fifth

floor of Burton, sent a survey about the elevator problem to other Burton residents. He also talked with Karen A. Nilsson, associate dean and director of housing, about the chronically broken elevator.

Egan said that he never suggested the TechCash compensation, though “some dormmates really wanted some sort of a break.”

Nilsson said that she and Benedict came up with the idea of monetary compensation. She said that it was a “small token” to let the students know that they regretted the inconvenience.

Action was taken in this specific situation due to the length of time that Burton residents were inconvenienced, Benedict said.

Nilsson said that there had been minor complaints from other students before Egan spoke with her. She had been working with the facilities department and the elevator company, because “the repairs took too long.”

Nilsson said that she had spoken to the elevator company about improving its service. The company is still under contract for quite a while, said Nilsson, and no decisions have been made about contract renewal.

\$17 Phone Service?

Housing's Budget Hit Hard by Energy Costs, Network Fees

By John A. Hawkinson

MIT's decision to charge \$17 per month for full dormitory phone service next year is the result of severe budget issues in the Housing Department.

Last month, Information Services and Technology announced the \$17 per month charge, with an activation fee of \$25. Students who elect not to pay will be limited to on-campus calls. The announcement was coordinated with Housing, which decided to stop paying the full cost of dormitory phone service.

Why did Housing decide to stop paying, and why is the charge \$17 per month?

Out of a budget of \$35 million, Housing was looking at a cost overrun of about \$2 million for the next fiscal year (FY2006). That overrun can be traced to two sources: about \$750,000 of rising utilities costs and about \$1 million of new costs to IS&T for networking. Until now, IS&T provided dormitory networking to Housing for free, subsidized by the rest of the Institute.

In order to balance its budget, Housing is both raising rents and trying to cut costs. Housing will save about \$674,000 by requiring students to pay for their own telephone service. Housing's budget comes almost entirely from house bills; it is not funded by the rest of the Institute.

Utilities costs a major factor

Housing's utilities — electricity, heat, and chilled water — cost \$750,000 over budget last fiscal year, totalling \$5.9 million. The 2003–2004 winter was “the coldest in 50 years,” said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict, who over-

Varsity Pistol Team Wins NRA National Pistol Championship

By Christine Nee
TEAM MEMBER

The Varsity Pistol team earned its first national championship since 1974, outshooting top teams including the United States Naval, Military, and Coast Guard Academies, and Ohio State University. MIT won by just four points over the Naval Academy, 6282–6278, which was seeking its fifth consecutive crown. This marked just the second time in 25 years that a civilian school has won the competition.

The team qualified for the National Rifle Association's Intercollegiate National Pistol Championships after ranking as one of the top 10 schools in men's events (free, standard, and open air pistol) and one of the top five in women's events (air and sport Pistol) in the Intercollegiate Pistol Sectionals in February.

Members of MIT's national competition team included David R. Schannon G, Ladd M. Horvath '05, Walter C. Lin '06, Tiffany L. Seto '06, Diana Nee '07, Christine L. Nee '07, Daipan Lee '07, and coach Will Hart.

The competition began with the free pistol championship. In this event, targets are placed 50 feet from the shooter, and 60 bullets are fired with a single-shot .22 caliber



CHRISTINE NEE

Diana Nee '07 of the MIT Pistol Team aims her pistol at a target. MIT placed first in the Intercollegiate National Pistol Championships, beating the United States Naval Academy by four points.

gun. MIT's team of Schannon, Horvath, Lin, and Lee won the event with a score of 2023, followed by the Naval Academy with a score of 2007.

The next event was women's air pistol, a 40-shot match with a compressed air gun. MIT's team of

Seto, Diana Nee, and Christine Nee placed second behind Ohio State. Diana Nee won the competition with a personal best of 372 points, making her the Women's Air Pistol national champion.

The next day featured the standard pistol championship, where

shooters fire a total of 60 shots with a .22 caliber gun, with the 60 shots divided into four five-shot strings at each of three time intervals (2.5 minutes, 20 seconds, and 10 seconds). Schannon, Horvath,

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WORLD & NATION

Kazakh Oil Company Joins Development Alliance

By Christopher Pala
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan’s national oil company said on Thursday that it had joined an alliance developing an oil field in the Caspian Sea by indirectly purchasing half of the BG Group’s stake in the project.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Jonathan Miller, head of communications for the BG Group, headquartered in Reading, England, said the company would sell its 16.67 percent stake in the Kashagan field for \$1.8 billion to the other alliance members, which include Total of France, the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips of the United States, and the Agip unit of Eni of Italy, the operator.

The alliance then agreed to sell half the stake to the national oil company, KazMunaiGaz.

BG is fundamentally a gas company, and Kashagan is “a huge oil field” that does not fit the company’s long-term strategy, Miller said.

The North Caspian PSA (production sharing agreement) as the offshore project is officially called, is the biggest oil discovery in decades. It is predicted to become one of the world’s top half-dozen fields by 2015, the biggest outside the Middle East, and to produce more than a million barrels a day.

Bombs Kill 5 at Holy Time For The Shiites

By Robert F. Worth
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Two suicide car bombers struck in central and northern Iraq on Thursday, killing at least five Iraqis and wounding more than two dozen while Shiites gathered around the country to celebrate a religious festival.

The attacks came as American military officials announced that three American soldiers were killed in action on Wednesday and Thursday, bringing the total in March to 35. That was the lowest monthly death toll in more than a year, according to the Defense Department Web site.

Several countries announced plans to take troops out of Iraq. Ukraine’s president, Viktor A. Yushchenko, said Thursday that his country would withdraw all of its 1,650 soldiers by the end of the year. In Bulgaria, which is facing summer elections, a spokesman said the government would request parliamentary approval to withdraw its 450 troops by year-end, Reuters reported.

Town Is Shaken as Inquiry Of School Shooting Points to A Plot

By Monica Davey
THE NEW YORK TIMES

RED LAKE, MINN.

As federal agents tried to decide whether any more students should face criminal charges in an attack that left 10 people dead and covered the halls of Red Lake High School in blood and spent ammunition, people on this American Indian reservation on Wednesday wrestled with the chilling thought that a group of their own — may have plotted the violence, or at least known about it in advance.

Marian Yellow said she had planned to send her 16-year-old daughter, Alicia Lyons, back to school whenever it reopened. But that was when last week’s attack on the school was believed to be the work of one troubled boy, Jeff Weise, who killed himself after killing nine others.

“Now I don’t want to send her back at all,” Yellow, 37, said sadly. “There’s always going to be this fear now. Who knows what else is out there? Who knows who is out there and what they’re planning?”

Following Protracted Court Conflicts, Terri Schiavo Dies

By William Yardley and Maria Newman
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PINELLAS PARK, FLA.

Terri Schiavo, the severely brain damaged Florida woman who became the subject of an intense legal and political battle that drew responses from the White House to the Halls of Congress to the Vatican, died Thursday, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed on the order of a state court judge.

Schiavo, 41, died just before 10 a.m. Thursday in the Pinellas Park hospice where she had lived, off and on, for several years, her parents’ attorney said. But even as she died, the searing emotions that surrounded her final days remained, following a national debate over whether she should have been reconnected to a tube that provided her with nourishment and hydration.

The lawyer, David Gibbs, said Schiavo’s brother and sister were with Schiavo until just before she died.

“While they are heartsick, this is indeed a sad day for the nation, this is a sad day for the family,” Gibbs said. “Their faith in God remains consistent and strong. They are absolutely convinced that God loves

Terri more than they do. They believe that Terri is now ultimately at peace with God himself.

“They intend to comfort themselves with their faith and with their family at this time.”

CNN reported that Schiavo’s husband, Michael, was with her when she died.

Her parents, Robert and Mary Schindler, came to the hospice shortly after they learned of her death and prayed at her bedside, said Brother Paul O’Donnell, a Franciscan Friar who has served as a spokesman for the parents. They left shortly thereafter.

As word of her death spread through the crowd outside the hospice, some people sang hymns, others began praying.

Shortly after Schiavo died, her body was transported to the medical examiner’s office, where an autopsy will be performed, at her husband’s request.

Just before noon, President Bush said he was saddened to hear of Schiavo’s death.

“I urge all those who honor Terri Schiavo to continue to work to build a culture of life, where all Americans are welcomed and valued and protected,” the president said,

“especially those who live at the mercy of others.

“The essence of civilization is that the strong have a duty to protect the weak. In cases where there are serious doubts and questions, the presumption should be in the favor of life.”

Florida’s governor, Jeb Bush, who had tried to intervene in the matter several times to keep Schiavo connected to her feeding tube, said after learning of her death that “this issue transcends politics and policies.” He also called this “the toughest issue” in his tenure.

“Her experience will heighten awareness of the importance of families dealing with end-of-life issues, and that is an incredible legacy,” he said. “The politics takes care of itself.

“As a society, as we live longer, it’s important for us to deal with these issues. I wish I could have done more. That’s the sadness in my heart.”

The fight between Schiavo’s husband to have his wife’s feeding tube removed, saying he was fulfilling her wish not to live in a vegetative state, and her parents, who said she could still recover if she was given proper treatment, lasted seven years.

Infection Leads to High Fever; Pope’s Condition Deteriorates

By Ian Fisher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

VATICAN CITY

The health of Pope John Paul II hit another serious complication on Thursday, when he developed a high fever because of a urinary tract infection, the Vatican said.

In a terse statement of three sentences, his chief spokesman, Dr. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, said that the pope, 84, who has looked gaunt and weak as his health has sharply declined in recent weeks, was receiving antibiotics to treat the infection.

“The clinical situation is being closely watched by the Vatican medical team treating him,” the statement said.

With little information from the Vatican — and amid a flow of pil-

grims to St. Peter’s Square as the news spread that the pope’s health may be failing — there seemed conflicting signs of just how grave this latest complication was.

Quoting anonymous Vatican sources, ANSA, the Italian news agency, said that the pope was responding well to the antibiotics. Nicola Cerbino, a spokesman for the Gemelli clinic in Rome, where the pope was admitted twice in February with the flu and serious problems breathing, said there were no plans to readmit him “tonight — at least for the moment.”

Other Italian news agencies reported that the pope, who has suffered for years from Parkinson’s disease, had been administered the Roman Catholic sacrament for the

sick and dying, often known as last rites and formerly called Extreme Unction. There was no confirmation from the Vatican, and spokesmen for the pope could not be reached early on Friday morning.

The last time he is known to have been administered the last rites was on May 13, 1981, after he was shot by a would-be assassin in St. Peter’s Square, almost three years after he was chosen pope.

Early Friday morning, the pitch of worry around the Vatican and among the pilgrims and tourists was especially high, after a Holy Week in which he was too ill and feeble to attend any of the ceremonies except for Mass on Easter Sunday. Even then he was so weak that no words came out of his mouth.

WEATHER

April Showers

By Nikki Prive
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

*The April rain, the April rain,
Comes slanting down in fitful showers,
Then from the furrow shoots the grain,
And banks are fledged with nestling flowers;
And in grey shawl and woodland bowers
The cuckoo through the April rain
Calls once again.*

—Mathilde Blind

Boston will be balanced today between a warm front over the Mid-Atlantic and a region of high pressure over the Canadian Maritimes, bringing a brief respite from rain. Tonight, the high pressure will move out, and a new low pressure system will head our way from the Midwest. Moisture will be drawn up from the Gulf of Mexico, bringing the potential for heavy rain from Friday night through Saturday night. The low pressure will move through New England on Sunday with a gradual end to showers during the day. High pressure building over the East Coast early next week will yield clearing skies and temperatures warming to near 60°F (15°C) by midweek.

Weekend Outlook:

Today: Rain showers possible in the morning, cloudy. High 48°F (9°C).

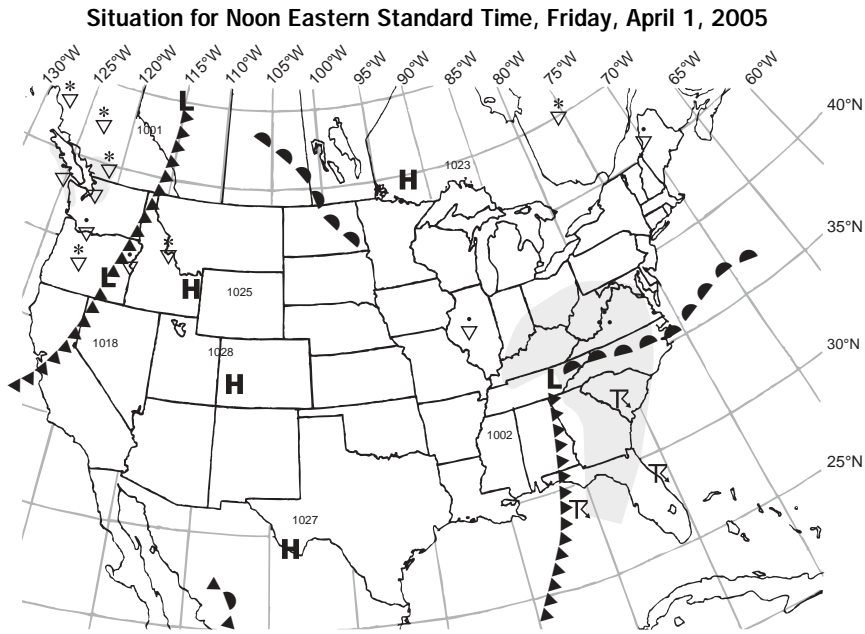
Tonight: Rain likely late. Low 41°F (5°C).

Tomorrow: Rain, heavy at times. High in the mid 40s F (8°C).

Tomorrow Night: Rain slowly tapering off overnight. Low 40°F (5°C).

Sunday: Showers ending during the morning, cloudy and breezy but warmer with highs in the mid 50s F (13°C). Overnight low near 40°F (5°C).

Monday: Sunny, high in the mid 50s F (13°C).



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow: * Rain: •	☁ Fog
L Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Light: * Moderate: ** Heavy: ***	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front		☁ Haze
	◐ Stationary Front		

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Chinese Petition to Deny Japan Place on U.N. Security Council

By Joseph Kahn
THE NEW YORK TIMES BEIJING

A grass-roots Chinese campaign to deny Japan a permanent seat on U.N. Security Council has gathered some 22 million signatures, increasing the chances that China will block Japan’s bid to join the elite group, organizers and analysts said Thursday.

The petition effort, conducted through popular Chinese Web sites, enjoys tacit support from the government, which has allowed state-controlled media to cover the campaign prominently.

Japan is expected to be among several nations granted permanent seats on a revamped Security Council under a plan that could come up for a vote in September. As one of the five current permanent members, China has the power to veto the proposal. It has not said how it plans to vote.

If China was to prevent Japan’s elevation, it would be the most direct confrontation between Asia’s leading

powers since they re-established diplomatic ties in 1972.

Relations between the countries have sharply deteriorated in recent weeks, strained by competition for energy resources, disputes over the way history textbooks assess Japan’s role in World War II, Japan’s pledge to aid the United States in defending Taiwan and the recent incursion of a Chinese submarine into Japanese waters.

By allowing millions of people to sign their names to a petition against Japan, Beijing’s new leadership seems determined to show that recent Japanese actions have so inflamed popular sentiment that China has no choice but to adopt a tougher diplomatic line.

Officials may also see the petition as leverage to force concessions from Japan as the price of admission to the Security Council. It could also serve as cover for a veto, which would be one of the most bold assertions of Chinese authority in many years. But the campaign has the potential to restrict China’s diplo-

matic leeway, making it harder to reach a quiet compromise.

China could also feel pressured to veto the whole U.N. overhaul if the plan promotes Japan, an unusual position for a country that has rarely used its veto power to oppose an international consensus.

“China must vote no and not just abstain,” said Tong Zeng, a longtime organizer of efforts to force Japan to recognize and apologize for World War II atrocities. “The government may not want to take the lead, but the Chinese people have taken the lead.”

The effort to rally anti-Japan sentiment began in late February, when several overseas Web sites began circulating a petition directed at the United Nations, which is currently debating a blueprint for changing its governing structure. It gathered momentum last week when leading Chinese Web sites, including portals like Sina, Sohu and Netease, advertised the drive with links on their main pages. Some sites allow users to register their names through text messages sent from mobile phones.

Mass. House Approves Embryonic Stem Cell Research in 117–37 Vote

By Pam Belluck
THE NEW YORK TIMES BOSTON

Legislation authorizing embryonic stem cell research passed in the Massachusetts House of Representatives on Thursday by a margin large enough to override an expected veto by Gov. Mitt Romney.

The bill, which passed the Senate by an overwhelming margin on Wednesday, would allow somatic cell nuclear transfer, a type of stem cell research that Romney opposes because it entails creating an embryo explicitly for the purpose of obtaining scientifically prized stem cells. The process ultimately involves destroying the embryo.

Romney, a Republican, calls the procedure “the cloning of new human embryos,” and says he considers it unethical. But despite running a radio advertisement Wednesday that called the legislation a “radical cloning bill,” he was unable to sway enough lawmakers to his side.

The House voted 117-37 to pass the bill, which is expected to land on Romney’s desk in a few days, assuming that the somewhat different versions passed by the Senate and the House can be reconciled in a joint conference committee. Fifty-

three votes are needed to sustain a veto.

Proponents of the bill said that allowing somatic cell nuclear transfer, also called therapeutic cloning, was critical to helping scientists find potential cures or treatments for illnesses like multiple sclerosis, diabetes and Parkinson’s disease, a goal that they say outweighs concerns about creating embryos for research.

The technique involves taking the nucleus from a mature cell, like a cell from the skin or liver of someone suffering from a disease, and transplanting it into an egg cell, which would then begin to produce stem cells that scientists could possibly use to create a cure for that disease.

“We have an opportunity to unlock some of the reasons behind degenerative diseases, and when we elicit those reasons, we can plan on curing some of those diseases,” said Rep. Daniel Bosley, a Democrat.

Scientists at Harvard University and Children’s Hospital Boston have plans to use the technique to create human stem cells, and supporters argued that if Massachusetts did not authorize and encourage such work, these scientists would move to states like California or

New Jersey, which have authorized such research and created financial incentives for it.

“If Gov. Mitt Romney’s position were to succeed, Massachusetts would become the laughingstock of the country — at once reversing the long-held perception that our state is an international leader in science and medicine,” said a statement from Philip Johnston, chairman of the state’s Democratic Party.

A spokesman for Romney, Eric Fehrstrom, said that the vote was “disappointing” but that the governor was still hopeful that the Senate and House would be unable to agree on a final version of the bill.

“It’s not over yet,” Fehrstrom said, adding that Romney’s radio advertisements would continue to run until the issue was resolved.

“This is uncharted ethical territory,” he said. “The cloning of human embryos has never been done before in this country and the governor has very legitimate concerns that we not create life for the sole purpose of experimenting on it.”

Romney, a Republican who leads a liberal state and is widely believed to have presidential ambitions, took a position on stem cell research that appeared to be aimed at two audiences.

Qanooni Leads Opposition Coalition Against Afghanistan President Karzai

By Carlotta Gall
THE NEW YORK TIMES KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Election season opened in Afghanistan on Thursday, five months before the scheduled parliamentary elections, as Yunus Qanooni, who came in second to President Hamid Karzai in October’s presidential voting, announced that he had formed a coalition of opposition parties.

Eleven political parties and one independent candidate have joined forces in forming the bloc, known as the Afghanistan National Coordination Front, and have named Qanooni to lead the group for a year.

The front, which has representatives from the three major ethnic groups — Pashtuns, Tajiks and Shia Hazaras — represents the first attempt to forge a serious opposition to Karzai’s government. Even before the elections, it will monitor the government’s activities and serve as a check on Karzai and his

Cabinet, Qanooni said at a news briefing.

“A government without a parliament or opposition will drift toward dictatorship,” he said. “Our goal is not war against the government. Our goal is to make a legal body and monitor and serve as a check on the government as a political bloc.”

The group will try to set the tone of Afghan politics over the summer, and hopes to put Karzai and his supporters on the defensive. Karzai won the presidential race convincingly, 39 percentage points ahead of Qanooni. But he has never been affiliated with any political party, and his supporters fear he may lose the contest to fill parliament with sympathetic legislators.

Karzai made a rare venture outside his presidential palace Thursday, being flown by a U.S. military plane to western Afghanistan, between the cities of Herat and his native Kandahar, where he opened a road construction project. The

visit was only his second to Afghanistan’s regions since winning the election last October, a reflection of the security concerns that continue to restrict his movements.

Qanooni and his allies are already sharply critical of Karzai’s government. They complain that corruption is worsening under the new Cabinet, and that the president has discarded the carefully balanced power-sharing agreement that kept the peace between the different ethnic groups and factions over the last three years.

The chief goal of the new political bloc is to change Afghanistan’s constitution and introduce a parliamentary system to create a more representative government.

Also on Thursday, the sentences of three Americans who were found guilty in September of running a private jail and torturing prisoners were reduced by a Kabul appeals court, said Abdul Latif, an appeals court judge.

Ruling on Conversions Sets Off Debate in Israel

By Greg Myre
THE NEW YORK TIMES JERUSALEM

Israel’s Supreme Court ruled Thursday that certain types of non-Orthodox conversions to Judaism must be recognized by the state, a decision that chips away at Orthodox control of the country’s religious affairs.

The Reform and Conservative movements, which are the largest streams of Judaism in the United States but which have little official standing in Israel, hailed the decision as a breakthrough. The Orthodox religious establishment, which is dominant here, said the ruling could cause a major religious rift.

“There is now more than one way to become Jewish in Israel, and that is wonderful,” said Anat Hoffman, executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, which filed the case on behalf of 14 foreigners living in Israel and seeking to convert.

Yona Metzger, Israel’s chief rabbi for Ashkenazic Jews, said the ruling was a dangerous precedent.

“If the court were to recognize Reform conversions, it would be very serious,” he told the Israeli radio. “It would split the nation in two.”

Organ Transplant Drug Could Fight Some Cancers

By Warren E. Leary
THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

A new drug that suppresses the body’s immune response is showing promise in reversing a skin cancer that sometimes afflicts kidney transplant recipients, according to researchers in Italy.

In a study appearing in the March 31 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, doctors found that the immunosuppressive drug sirolimus, or rapamycin, completely reversed the cancer, called Kaposi’s sarcoma, in 15 patients who developed it after earlier kidney transplants.

The patients, who developed cancerous skin lesions within months or a few years of their transplants, all saw their cancers disappear within three months of discontinuing standard immune suppression therapy and switching to sirolimus, the study reported. In addition to eliminating the cancers, the drug also continued to prevent rejection of the transplanted organs, it said.

“This dual role of the drug may prove important in other situations in which transplant recipients are at high risk for tumor recurrence or primary cancer,” wrote Dr. Giovanni Stallone, Dr. Antonio Schena and colleagues, all of the University of Bari.

Patients receiving organ transplants must take anti-rejection drugs like cyclosporine and tacrolimus, which work by damping down the body’s protective immune system to keep the foreign tissue from being attacked. This leaves a patient more vulnerable to infection by bacteria and viruses, including cancer-causing viruses, experts said, and is a reason organ recipients are at higher risk of several types of cancer.

Schroeder Asserts His Authority On Possible Arms Sales to China

By Richard Bernstein
THE NEW YORK TIMES BERLIN

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, faced with a surge of opposition in Parliament to his proposal to lift the arms embargo on China, asserted in an interview published Thursday in Die Zeit that he had the sole authority to speak for Germany on the issue, whatever Parliament might say.

“It says in the constitution that foreign policy is made by the federal government,” Schroeder said. “I treat every parliamentary vote seriously, but the constitutional situation is very clear.” Schroeder and President Jacques Chirac of France have been the leading advocates for lifting the arms embargo, which would have to be approved by the European Union as a whole. The idea is opposed by the United States and several European countries, and it seems extremely unlikely that it will be adopted by the group anytime soon.

Thus there is little that Schroeder can do on a practical level. His comments seemed to be intended to assert his authority in the minds of the public at a time when he seems to be losing a political battle at home.

Unlike Chirac, whose position has occasioned no particular protest, Schroeder has run into such a storm of opposition that it is difficult to find anybody, even in his own party, who supports him. This has particularly been the case since China approved legislation authorizing the use of military force if Taiwan declares independence.

Massachusetts to Probe School Building Costs

By Maria Sacchetti
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Massachusetts plans to investigate billions worth of school building construction across the state for budgets far beyond the amounts the state originally approved and extravagant spending on routine items.

The state plans to audit more than 600 school projects that have been in line for money since 1989. State officials don’t have a dollar amount for the construction projects, but said those audited will be from a list of nearly 1,200 projects in the state worth at least \$9.2 billion.

A new state authority on school construction, which met Wednesday, highlighted several projects it wanted to examine, including an Arlington middle school that nearly doubled in price since the state approved its construction. The state has been conducting preliminary audits of a handful of schools.

The state, which has a long history of troubles with its school construction program, is pushing for audits now because the Treasurer’s office is preparing to sell bonds this spring to pay for part of the construction and needs to know the projects’ actual cost. State officials expect higher overall costs because of what they’ve already heard about overruns.

OPINION

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Religious Insensitivity

It has come to my attention that I am not particularly welcome at two large student-run events held during the last semester of my senior year at MIT. Though the Spring Weekend concert has been held on Saturday nights in the past, it will take place on Friday, April 22 this year. The following weekend, the Senior Ball will be held on Saturday, April 30th

— the eighth night of Passover — one of four evenings in the entire semester that observant Jews cannot ride in cars due to a holiday.

Though I would love to attend both of these events, I will have to sit them out due to conflicts with my religious observance. There are very few days in the calendar that MIT students of any religion are prevented from attending these events, and it would not have

been difficult for the planning committees to find out which dates would cause these problems for religious students.

Please join me in calling on the planning committees of future events to be more considerate of all MIT students who choose to peacefully practice their religion during their college years.

Matya Gilbert-Schachter '05

Erratum

An article in Tuesday's issue on the Putnam Mathematical Competition misspelled the name of Vladimir V. Barzov '06, who was one of the top five scorers.



“Oh, look . . . they’re reading ‘1984’ in Ms. Smith’s English class.”



“So, who are you voting for in 2008 . . . the wife of a former president or the brother of the current one?”

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Reviewer, Not Audience, Is Ignorant

I am both appalled and offended by Tony Hwang’s review of the latest MITSO concert, or should I say, his review of the latest MITSO concert’s audience, in the March 18 *Tech*. As a

Letter performer myself, I feel that his characterization and labeling of the audience, which included myself, that night was completely rude and unfair. Furthermore, the claims that he made against the audience were entirely ludicrous.

Having been involved in acting and music for most of my life, I’ve come to learn that different audiences react in different ways. Some are very responsive, while others are pretty silent. This has nothing to do with the quality of the audience. Perhaps the quieter group likes to reflect more, which results in a calmer demeanor. At any rate, it’s not rational to judge all audiences with one standard, because quite simply, all people are different. This is a fact that Hwang blatantly decided to ignore.

His first basis for degrading us is that we waited too long to applaud after the first piece. This is unnecessarily picky in every way. I think that the audience deserves a cookie for realizing that you don’t applaud after each movement in a piece, but instead hold it until the end. Now, if you don’t know the music, it’s not always simple to tell the difference

between a pause and the actual final note of a piece. Therefore, we were being respectful by holding our applause until we were absolutely certain that the song was over. This shows ignorance and disrespect? Perhaps some were even absorbing the piece, not being able to applaud until they completely took it in. Hwang makes it sound as if it makes more sense to blindly clap just because you’re supposed to do it, and not because you mean it. In my opinion, that’s ignorant.

His next stab at us is that we didn’t applaud enough after the final piece. Again, this is a completely ridiculous ground to call anyone ignorant on. Didn’t applaud enough? What exactly does that mean? It’s almost comical to read his writing as he says, “half of the audience gave a standing ovation,” *but* “the applause died down even before the conductor had the opportunity to make his trek to and from the podium the obligatory number of times,” which instantly makes us savage beasts. Could someone fill the world in on what the “obligatory number of times” is? Is it 5? 6? 25? It looks like it’s just some arbitrary number that I suppose every audience member should know, lest they are barbarians. How silly of us to forget! But seriously, applause should be given based on the audience’s perception of the music. Again, true applause is more respectful than giving it just because

“you’re supposed to.” (And the last time I checked, a standing ovation was a big thing to receive on its own. How picky is it to place applause duration over that?)

I am further appalled by whom he decided to take this anger out on. When I entered Kresge, I expected the seats to be pretty filled. I was quite saddened by the very low numbers. MITSO is an amazing group, and it’s depressing to know that not even one percent of the student body can come out and see it. Now, don’t get me wrong; I am not blaming this completely on student apathy. However, you’d think that the reviewer would have been proud of the few who came out to listen to the music. Instead, he chooses to completely bash them. Shouldn’t he be angry with all those who didn’t come? Or is one personal and meticulous standard of concert etiquette more important to him than support? That really doesn’t make any sense to me, and I honestly don’t think that such picky reviews of the audience will help future attendance.

Even if we were all ignorant, Hwang assumes that everyone knows his rules for concert etiquette. If he is that preoccupied with his standards, perhaps he should invest in a list of rules to be placed outside of Kresge, kindly instructing all of us uncultured savages on how to behave.

Akil Middleton ’08

Mind-Forged Manacles

Sek-Loong Tan

Racial equality in this nation is still a work in progress. Once a year, the media train of spotlights swings around, the President delivers a speech, and the nation takes a holiday to celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. But next day, the media shuffle is off, leaving behind a deafening silence. The public is uninterested — too busy to care, perhaps desensitized by the whole affair.

Since the civil rights movement in the 1960’s, opportunities have been far more accessible for minorities. More so than ever, attempts to extend a welcoming hand have been a preoccupation of workplaces, educational institutions, and public services. It is consoling to observe the progress in this area. Today, we can see minorities represented at the highest levels in government, business, and education. The physical segregation of this country along racial barriers is almost gone. As a nation and as a community at MIT, we are the richer for it.

But the fact remains that today, the

proportion of blue-collar jobs held by minorities is far from equally representing the population demographics of the U.S. This is just one indication of the racial inequality so prevalent in our society.

As a very recent arrival to the U.S. myself, I found it profoundly unsettling to see minorities occupying almost all the blue-collar jobs, such as taxi and bus drivers, cleaners, kitchen staff, baggage handlers to name a few. While perhaps more even-handed than elsewhere, the Boston area at large and more specifically MIT does reflect this national trend. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to be more aware of who is performing the low-paid service jobs you take for granted.

Does this mean that we need more programs and a greater effort to widen access for minorities? These programs are indeed worthwhile and necessary measures, albeit insufficient. The not so distant joining together of MIT with the University of Michigan, IBM, Stanford University, Dupont and others in supporting affirmative action in admissions and race conscious policies is a prime example of institutions being more proactive in this

area. However, perhaps these well-intentioned actions are a double-edged sword, carving racial divides into a society which spent so long erasing official negative discrimination.

I am not advocating any rolling back of positive anti-discrimination policies; these do serve a purpose in reversing a long history of inequality of rights and opportunity. But while the physical chains of slavery had been broken as early as 1862, and one century later the civil rights movement shattered the shackles of segregation, today the challenge is to throw off the mind-forged manacles which limit our ability to disregard superficial differences. As William Blake commented so incisively, we must break free from the self-imposed social and intellectual restraints which lead to the subtle form of racism that each of us exercise in an unconscious way. It is rather ironic that the final hurdle in the battle for racial equality was not the removal from bondage of the minority so many years ago — it is today the removal of a people’s minds from the bondage of bias.

Sek-Loong Tan is a member of the Class of 2006.

Embryonic Ethics at the Institute

Joe Kushner

As a graduate student in a biomedical research laboratory at MIT, I have received training to work with human materials for research purposes. In writing this letter, I hope to increase awareness at MIT on the unethical use of human embryos as research subjects for stem cell research. Two documents, the *Nuremberg Code* and the *Declaration of Helsinki*, provide the foundation for the ethical use of all human subjects in medical research. These documents indicate that the current methods used in human embryonic stem cell research fail to satisfy basic ethical protections granted to all human research subjects, regardless of whether the human research subject is a “person” protected by national or state laws.

Three ethical guidelines of the *Nuremberg Code*, drafted in the wake of the trials of Nazi doctors who conducted research on captive human subjects, are violated in human embryonic stem cell research. These guidelines are 1) the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential, 2) no experiment should be conducted where there is an a priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur, and 3) proper preparations should be made and adequate facilities provided to protect the experimental subject against even remote possibilities of injury, disability, or death.

Clearly, it is impossible to obtain consent from the human embryo to participate in research. Additionally, every experiment involving a human embryo within the field of embryonic stem cell research results in the direct death of the embryo. Once the stem cells are extracted, the human embryo can no longer develop normally, and death is the ultimate result.

The ethical ideas expressed in the *Nuremberg Code* are reinforced in the *Declaration of Helsinki*, a publication of the World Medical Association, most recently updated in 2004, which specifies the ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. While the *Declaration of Helsinki* does allow, implicitly, the possible use of human embryos in research, provided the appropriate legal guardian gives voluntary consent, the researcher is still required to “protect the life, health, privacy, and dignity of the human subject” involved in the research — which does not currently happen.

Furthermore, the *Declaration of Helsinki* states that “Medical research is only justified if there is a reasonable likelihood that the populations in which the research is carried out stand to benefit from the results of the research.” All studies in human embryonic stem cell research are currently designed to be carried on the embryonic subset of the population for the benefit of human beings in the later stages of life, which is in direct violation of the *Declaration of Helsinki*.

As you can see from the information presented here, human embryonic stem cell research is an unethical use of human embryos for research purposes on several fronts. This is true regardless of whether the human embryo used for the research is donated by a legal guardian, obtained from fertility clinics where they were selected to be discarded, or created by the methods of therapeutic cloning or somatic cell nuclear transfer. The protection granted to human embryos by the *Nuremberg Code* and the *Declaration of Helsinki* is not dependent on whether the laws of the state or country consider the human embryo a “person.” The only requirement for human embryos to receive the protection of the ethical guidelines enumerated in these documents is that they are human, which is an indisputable scientific fact.

It is for these reasons that I humbly hope that all professors, post-docs, graduate students, UROPs, and visiting scientists who conduct research on human embryonic stem cells will postpone all research efforts until a means of obtaining human embryonic stem cells is discovered that does not result in the death or the disablement of the human embryo. In doing so, you will reaffirm the position of this Institute as a national leader in ethical, cutting-edge, medical research.

Joe Kushner is a graduate student.

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ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★★

Woody Allen Wears Both Masks of the Theater

‘Melinda and Melinda’ a Solid Trip to Movies

By Kapil Amarnath

Directed and written by Woody Allen
Starring Radha Mitchell, Will Ferrell, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Chloe Sevigny
Rated PG-13

Woody Allen’s movies generally involve drama with wry comedy based on human imperfection. In “Melinda and Melinda,” Allen separates the two genres, resulting in a somewhat uneven film. Still, “Melinda and Melinda” is a stimulating trip to the movies amidst brain-dead early releases like “Cursed.”

The film begins with two playwrights sitting over dinner. Both present the story of Melinda (Radha Mitchell), a woman who stumbles into a dinner party shortly after drowning herself in drugs. For the rest of the film, Melinda tries to straighten her life out by finding love.

One playwright presents it from a tragic point of view, in which Melinda’s past includes murder, and she’s a nervous, frazzled wreck who can’t get a job. She meets Ellis (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a suave composer, but the friend that she trusts, Laurel (Chloe Sevigny), also finds him attractive.

The other playwright presents the story as a bedroom farce. Melinda’s past involves a simple disagreement with her husband. She’s kempt and composed, and she’s able to get a job with her art degree from Brandeis. She’s pursued by the goofy, jobless Hobie (Will Ferrell), who’s married (at least initially) to director Susan (Amanda Peet).

Allen is best known for his ability to craft dialogue around relationships in his beloved New York City, with a career total of 13 Academy Award nominations for Best Screenplay. Here, he uses dialogue to distinguish between tragedy and

comedy. Melinda goes to horse races in both stories. With Hobie, she’s kinetic and joyful after admitting that she hadn’t “been to the races in years.” With Ellis, she makes the same admission but with a straight face. A genie-lamp appears in both stories. In one, Melinda picks it up when she first meets Ellis, and we can only surmise what she wishes when she rubs it. Meanwhile, when Hobie sees an identical lamp, he says his wish out loud. Allen conveys that comedy works because it’s explicit, while tragic moods rely on the unspoken.

But Allen isn’t content with making clear distinctions. The farce ends with all the pieces in place. In the tragedy, however, it’s explained that “life is messy,” like Melinda’s appearance. Both the tragedy and the comedy had aspects of each other.

The two stories by themselves are mediocre. The dialogue is unnatural at times, and the plot seems incomplete, as both stories end abruptly. Perhaps Allen feels that a good movie needs both comedy and drama to succeed, thus explaining his method of making films.

Allen chooses actors for each of the stories depending on their background. For the



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Hobie (Will Ferrell) and Melinda (Radha Mitchell) enjoy each other’s company.

dramatic story, he uses Sevigny (Academy award nomination in the dark “Boys Don’t Cry”) and Ejiofor, who rose through the British theater to debut in “Amistad.” In the comedy — the “Old School” star Ferrell and “Saving Silverman”’s Peet. The acting itself is generally good, as is the case in Allen’s films. Mitchell, in her first major starring role, is able to convincingly portray the two Melindas. Ferrell plays the character that Allen would normally play,

self-deprecating and smart-alecky, and he adds his flair for physical humor.

I’m a big fan of Allen’s movies because they’re dense with ideas and great music, and this one is no different. Though the film isn’t structured as well as “Crimes and Misdemeanors” or “Manhattan,” Allen, through attention to detail, is able to describe many of our dramatic and comedic sensibilities, keeping us interested for the entire running length of the movie.

FILM REVIEW ★★

Taking Ambivalence to a Horrifying New Level

‘The Ring 2’ — Wish They’d Never Called Back

By Jessica O. Young

STAFF WRITER

Directed by Hideo Nakata
Written by Koji Suzuki
Starring Naomi Watts, Simon Baker, Sissy Spacek
Rated PG-13

Please believe me when I say that I went into “The Ring 2” wanting to give it a stellar review. Believe me when I say that I was looking forward to seeing it for two weeks, and that I consider “The Ring” the scariest movie I’ve ever seen. And believe me when I say that “The Ring 2” was eh. That is, I had a fun time watching it, but in retrospect, I was disappointed.

While the current trend of a sequel being synonymous with garbage is fulfilled, “The

Ring 2” does have some redeeming qualities. So let’s do a point-by-point comparison looking at “The Ring 2” in terms of a downgrade, no-grade, or upgrade. The plot gets a downgrade. The original offered a coherent, creepy mystery-type thriller — the audience plays detective alongside Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) after she watches a video that guarantees her death in one week’s time. “The Ring 2” was clearly written after the fact, and in an attempt to make up for its own non-necessity, a new, lamer plotline was created — the evil girl, Samara (Kelly Stables), from the original is back, and angry. The chill-factor gets a downgrade, as the new plotline isn’t nearly as shocking as the original one. The feeling I got leaving the theatre was, sadly, also a downgrade. Acting gets a no-grade, as the

repeat cast did a great job in the first movie and an equally great job in the sequel. Cinematography and special effects both get upgrades — the movie was aesthetically pleasing to watch.

Sitting in the theater, surrounded by excited audience members, I had a decent time. I laughed, I screamed, I met Orson Scott Card (just kidding, it was only a creepy guy pretending to be OSC). The cinematography was beautiful and artistic in parts, a couple of Hollywood favorites made cameos, and there were certainly scenes in which covering my eyes seemed like the best idea. Judging by the screams from the audience, I would say that they were enjoying themselves. Here’s where it gets confusing — looking back on it, I’m astonished at how decent of a time I had watching such a poorly-written movie.

While I was watching “The Ring 2,” I was aware of several flaws and loose ends, but I pushed them to the back of my mind. Once I had a moment to consider them, however, they became overwhelming. It seems as if the writer had a start and end in mind and arbitrarily chose the rest. Not enough animals in the first one? We’ll throw some in. Not enough water in the first one? We’ll throw some on our cast. It’s not that animals and water are arbitrary, just that they do little to enrich the plot. “The Ring 2” simply works so hard to dazzle the viewer visually that it falls flat otherwise. Seeing 20 gallons of water spread out on a ceiling is stunning, but it does-

n’t exactly make up for the 20 or so loose-ends contained in the movie.

“The Ring 2” creates new problems and characters only to forget them. Not just that, but the problems are often nonsensical, and the characters often say inconsistent things. Here’s an example that won’t ruin the movie should you still decide to see it (*cough* home rental *cough*): Keller decides to visit Samara’s birth-mother, Evelyn (Spacek), at an asylum, where she is told that Evelyn predicted her arrival and is pretty good at anticipating visits. When Keller hears Evelyn’s humming, she says that she recognizes the song and is told, “They always do.” The viewer now knows that Keller is not the only person who has tracked down Evelyn and that her predicament (which, if I explained, would give away too much) is not unique ... meaning this has happened before. That’s great. That offers Keller lots of possibilities which, and here’s the catch, “The Ring 2” never explores. These other affected women are never again mentioned.

“The Ring 2” also left me with many questions. As a viewer, I’m asked to believe in a lot of impossible things, like a dead girl’s angered spirit coming through a television screen to murder innocent people such that their faces are frozen in repulsive disfigurement. I accept it, I forget common sense, and I go with it. But how much can I let slide? I found myself sitting there wondering how Samara has so much time to ruin so many people’s lives or why she even bothers. I asked myself who made the video tape and why he didn’t think to make a DVD version or just schedule it in after “American Idol.” Sure, my questions don’t need to be answered, but that’s not the point. The point is that instead of enjoying every moment of the movie, I was sitting there distracted.

Should you see it? Maybe. If you’re in the right mood and you’re watching it with the right crowd, it is truly a fun experience. Just because it doesn’t have the tightest, most clever plot doesn’t mean you won’t get chills. Then again, just because you get chills doesn’t mean you haven’t wasted two hours.



DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts) repels the evil Samara (Kelly Stables) in “The Ring 2.”

CLASSICAL REVIEW

BSO Premieres Two New Works

‘Darkbloom’ by Prof. John Harbison Performed

By Jacqueline O’Connor
STAFF WRITER

Harbison, Stravinsky, Wuorinen, and Brahms
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Symphony Hall
March 24-26, 2005

Throughout the years, the Boston Symphony Orchestra has premiered some of the 20th century’s most prolific works by some of its most important composers. This past weekend’s concert was no exception. Pieces by composers John Harbison and Charles Wuorinen were featured with works by Stravinsky and Brahms. The dynamic pianist Peter Serkin performed alongside the symphony for two of the pieces on the program.

Though my opinion may be biased as a member of the MIT community and a former student of Prof. Harbison, I thought his piece, “Darkbloom: Overture for an imagined opera,” was the best piece performed. This work is the compilation of the pieces of an unfinished opera first started by Harbison in 1999. Though he eventually abandoned the project, he was able to pull together the available sketches and create a wonderful piece for orchestra. It was a fan-

tastic beginning for the concert; the piece started with such presence and depth that the listener was instantly captured. From the very beginning it was evident that the music had been meant for opera. Each line was singing and lyrical, and throughout the piece there was an interesting dialog between sections of the orchestra, as there would be between singers on the stage.

Rich harmonies and brilliant colors were created by amazing orchestration and the interesting combinations of instruments used. One section in particular featured a melody that was passed back and forth between the first and second violins. The melody was ingeniously created using glissandos on harmonics in both sections. Another interesting section ended with a descending melody that was seamlessly passed between the leaders of all five strings sections, the next player starting on the same note as the last so that it was almost impossible to tell who was playing. Altogether, the quality of the music and the musicianship were both impressive. Like any good overture, this piece left the listener wanting more. Unfortunately for all of us, the rest is never to come.

The rest of the concert, though, was not as brilliant as the opening. Despite the obvious tal-

ent that Peter Serkin brought to the Boston stage, the pieces he chose to play lacked interest and did not show his legendary brilliance. The first, Stravinsky’s “Movements for Piano and Orchestra,” was a very pointy piece that caused much frustration to the listener. Melodies would begin to form within the sea of seemingly random notes but would disappear as quickly as they appeared. I wanted to catch one melody and just hold on, seeing where it would go. Unfortunately, Stravinsky never allowed anything to progress more than two bars.

The second piece was another world premier, a piano concerto written by Charles Wuorinen, a composer famous for his forays in electric-instrument music. The piece was broken into three parts, each shorter and more frantic than the one before. Though I found the piece interesting, there was also something lacking. Wuorinen is a master at setting atmosphere but does nothing when it comes to putting a subject into this newly-created scenery. It was as if he had created an amazing painting or movie set complete with starlit sky, darkened forest, dewdrops on the leaves, and little creepy things darting in the shadows. Every detail was accounted for, every instru-

ment added to the complex tapestry, but no storyline, hero, or heroine appeared. The progress of the piece just seemed like a morphing of the scene instead of an actual plot. Besides this lack of action, the piece was very temperamental. The mood changed from curious to frenetic to playful to compulsive to lyrical all within a minute. Just as a theme was beginning to be developed, the mood would change and pull the piece in the opposite direction. While Serkin gave an impressive performance, the piece was not conducive to enjoyable listening.

The final piece on the concert was a rocky performance of Symphony No. 2 by Johannes Brahms. The performance went from lyric and beautiful to almost sloppy. The last movement was the best part of the piece, providing an exciting end to the concert. The brass section provided great support throughout the piece and a fantastic and brilliant ending.

Despite the inconsistent nature of the concert, the event was all together enjoyable. Both composers were present for the premiers and were thoroughly congratulated after their pieces were performed. The Boston Symphony Orchestra did a commendable job with two difficult premiers.

THEATER REVIEW

Performing ‘Falling Angels’

Boston Ballet Explores the Modern Repertoire

By Fred Choi
STAFF WRITER

“Falling Angels” Program
The Boston Ballet
Choreographed by Lucinda Childs, Jirí Kylián, and William Forsythe
March 17-20

Although the Boston Ballet relies on classic “story” ballets to attract the casual dancegoer, their modern dance programs certainly have admirers. Last weekend, their audiences had the opportunity to see a slice of the contemporary spectrum which, while mixed, was satisfying.

The program began with “Ten Part Suite,” a world premiere by American Lucinda Childs, who is well-known for her collaborations with American minimalists Phillip Glass and John Adams. Set to violin sonatas by Arcangelo Corelli, the work consisted of less literal representations of the florid music than similar works by Mark Morris. Here, Childs’ choreography was often similarly symmetrical and coolly, almost coldly, precise, despite

near-constant movement, pervasive jumps, and lovely low lifts.

By all accounts, the highlight of the evening and certainly one of the highlights of the Boston arts season proved to be a pair of works by the Czechoslovakian Jirí Kylián. Kylián’s work is too rarely seen outside of Europe and the Netherlands Dance Theater, his “artistic home.” Two linked dances were presented here, “Sarabande” and “Falling Angels.” The works are among that valuable breed of art — worthy, yet rare — so crowd-pleasing that they are virtually impossible for critics and audiences not to love, but crafted and presented with such integrity and so expertly done that they never suggest artistic compromise or a bid for popularity.

The first of the pair, “Sarabande,” is for six men and was wonderfully misleadingly billed as being set to the music of the movement of the same name from Bach’s “Unaccompanied Violin Partita #2.” In fact, the work is mostly comprised of very eerie, ambient electronic sound (calling to mind any number of horror and thriller movies, although closer in spirit to

the perfectly-pitched “Donnie Darko”) and the dancers’ miked and distorted wails, shrieks, mad laughter, flapping fingers, and slapped hands and body parts. The dancers’ synchronized vocals and choreographed sounds adds a disquieting tension not found in other works, as each has to listen carefully to the other while executing moves that tend to be simultaneously athletic and unabashedly bizarre. The atmosphere created, whose surreality is compounded by six golden ball gowns hanging sinisterly overhead and the gradual removal of (and wrestling with) the dancers’ clothing, juxtaposed the macabre, the insane, and the clownish to great effect.

The second Kylián work was the dazzling “Falling Angels” for eight women, set to Steve Reich’s “Drumming.” The work begins with on-the-beat choreography that fits the rhythmic music fairly straightforwardly, but once a duo splits away from the others, the work continues to expand, even up to the ending that comes too soon. As with “Sarabande,” Kylián doesn’t shy away from incorporating quirky, mime-like motions into his vocabulary for

“Falling Angels,” but the perfectly coupled lighting (done by Joop Caboot) and the cornucopia of ideas assure that the artistic intent transcends any mere gimmickry.

Following the exhilarating works by Kylián, the Company’s revisit of William Forsythe’s “In the middle, somewhat elevated,” performed to acclaim by the Boston Ballet in 2002, was decidedly inferior. Little engaged the eye as dancers strode on and off-stage with “A Chorus Line” levels of swagger, then lapsed into bursts of frenetic, showy movement with apparently the same level of indifference. Unfortunately, the score by Thom Willems, perhaps best described as “Yanni Does Techno,” quickly grew as tedious and repetitive as the choreography.

For students who have even a passing interest in dance or the Boston Ballet, there’s really no excuse not to go. The Ballet sells student tickets for \$15, and they frequently have other discounted but excellent seats. Next up is the well-loved ballet “The Sleeping Beauty” (May 5–15), with the classic score by Tchaikovsky.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Tapas at ‘Masa’

Food, Drink, Music New Option for Thursday Nights

By Yao-Chung King

Masa
439 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02116
617-338-8884

Hours:
Restaurant: Sun-Wed 5-10 p.m. Thurs-Sat 5-11 p.m.
Bar: Sun-Thurs 5-11 p.m. Wed-Sat 5 p.m.-1 a.m.
(Tapas only served after 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday)

Masa’s Web site quotes Alison Arnett of *The Boston Globe* as saying that the restaurant has “A Southwestern air of sophistication.” Masa serves an array of Southwestern style entrees, from steak to lamb to tuna-flavored, with the selective additions of fresh lime, cilantro, chiles, avocado, and salsa. With a classy interior of white brick, hanging crystal chandeliers, white drapery, and gilded mirrors, Masa seems like a clean choice for a nice evening out. Nothing too risky, but enough dazzle to escape the blasé.

I skipped the sit-down three-course routine and headed straight for their bar, a standard-looking setup with room for eight in front and additional seating in the form of high bar stools next to equally high tables. What had attracted me there wasn’t its Zagat rating or the host of positive reviews about Masa (which are conveniently listed, also, on its Web site). It was the tapas menu.

Masa offers ten small-plated treats, from a slightly over-salted Guajillo (chile) Rubbed Sliced Steak and Guacamole to a delightful Carnita De Puerco Empanada (pork turnover with

flaky crust). At an unexpected dollar a pop, Masa is an attractive stop for an evening of imbibing and snacking. Other notables on the menu include a decent-tasting Calamari and Avocado Wasabi, BBQ Chicken Skewer with Pineapple Salsa, and Tuna Ceviche Taco (raw tuna marinated in lime and lemon). But the real gem on the menu was the Grilled Chorizo. A juicy pork sausage slice served beside cranberry chutney salsa, the Chorizo presents a surprisingly well-matched mixture between the salt of the sausage and the sweet-tart flavors in the salsa.

But at a buck-a-piece, don’t take my word for it. The “combo platter” (\$10), whose prosaic name does little justice to the quality of its contents, lets you sample all ten. (Feel free to suggest a more elegant name to the server.) Also try the Sangria (\$5), served in a small pitcher with ice and lemon, lime, and orange pieces, which tasted surprisingly pleasant, lacking the bitterness common to this oft boxed wine.

End Notes: An extensive Spanish wine and tequila alcohol menu, cheap and quick eats, early closing hours, and a slightly distant location point Masa out as a prime first stop for a Spanish-themed night out for drinks and appetizers. A live band every Thursday plays salsa, meringue, and latin jazz, making Masa an ideal spot for a casual get-to-know-you evening out. Despite a tapas menu of varying quality, try this place out. The cost makes a quick trial of everything unprohibitive.

Directions: Take the Green line to the Arlington T stop. Walk in the direction of traffic for five short blocks, around a bend, and across a bridge to the intersection of Tremont and Arlington. Turn right on Tremont without crossing it, and find Masa is a couple of yards ahead.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 5; 12:00-4:00 pm; 10-105

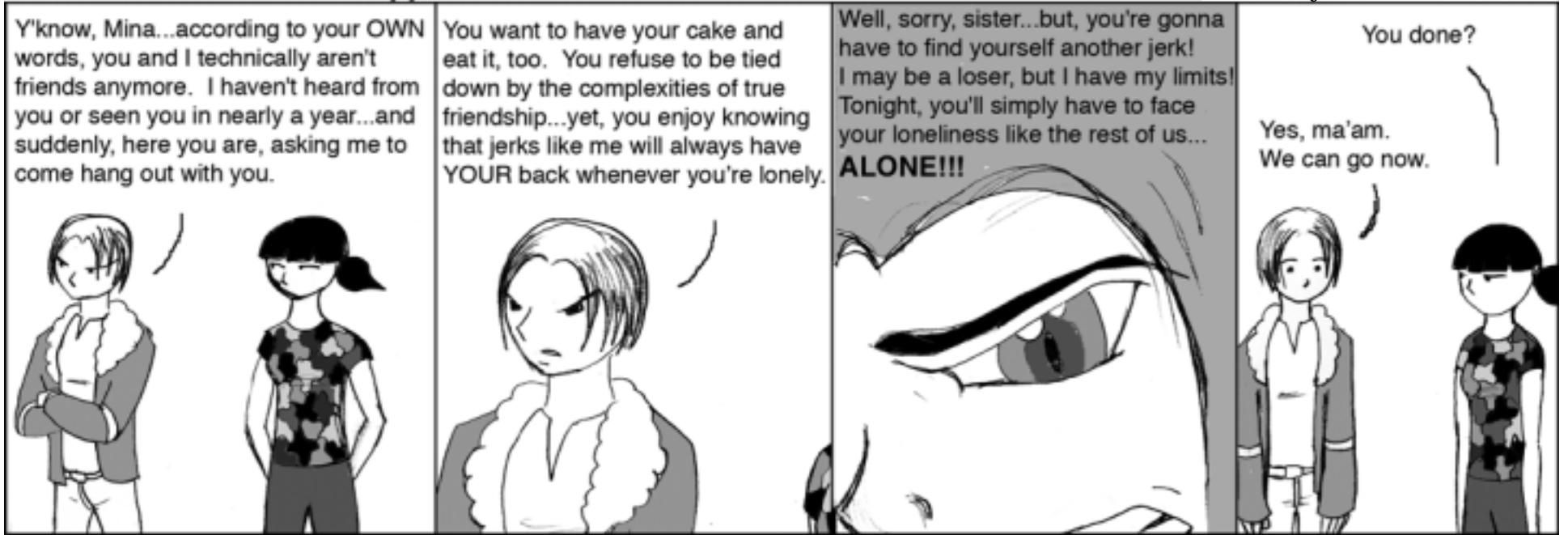


Department of
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Trio

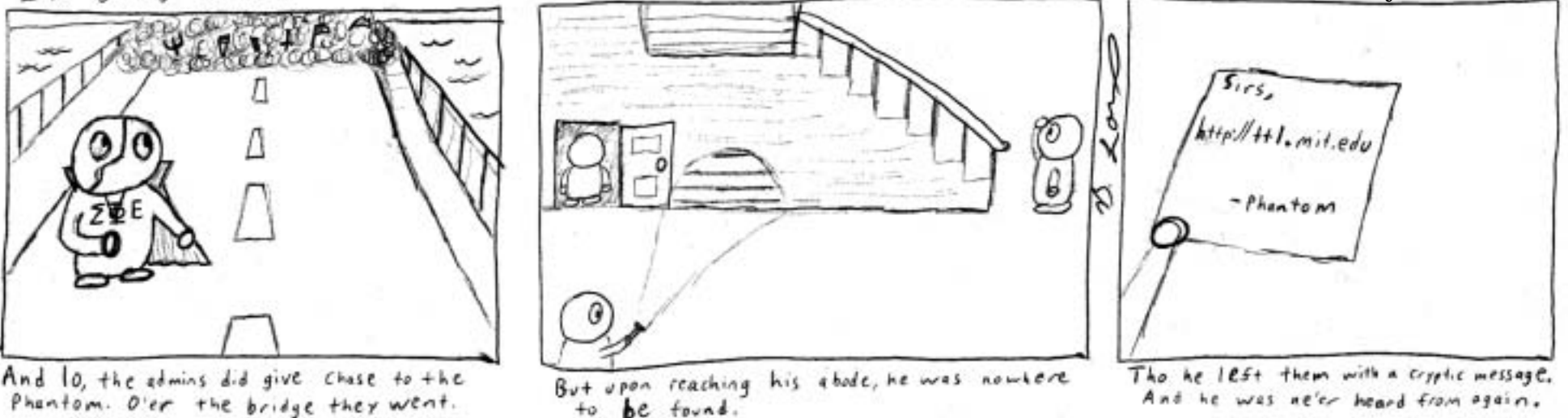
Hey yo...tell a freind about TRIO: ALUM.MIT.EDU/WWW/EMIE

by Emezie Okorafor



I'm going to hell

by Brian Loux

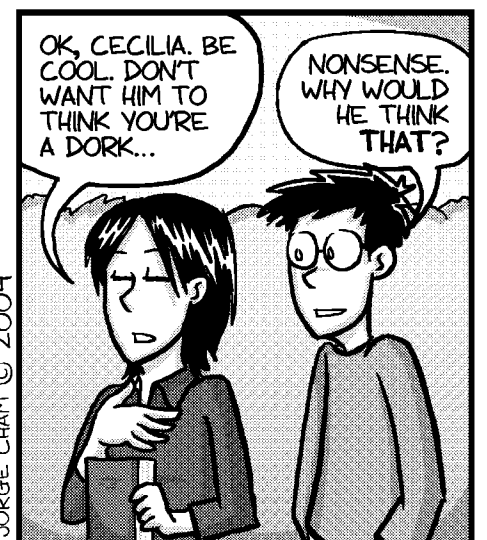
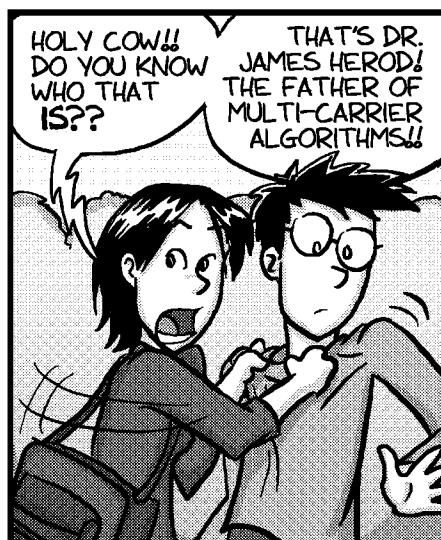
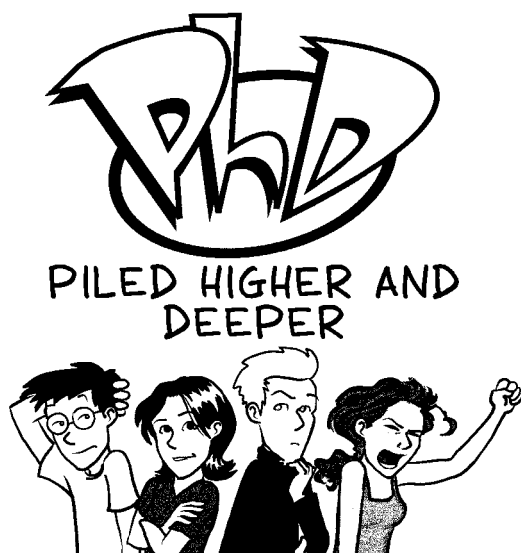


BizToons

BY JENNIFER LÓPEZ



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www.phdcomics.com

FoxTrot by Bill Amend

Dilbert® by Scott Adams

KRT Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 16

ACROSS

- 1 Hand-holders?
- 5 Royal headband
- 10 Unscathed
- 14 Man from Tarsus
- 15 Pooped out
- 16 Goose's gullet
- 17 500-mile race
- 18 Element
- 19 Vague state of mind
- 20 Billboard blurbs
- 21 Coastal collector
- 23 Scottish landowner
- 25 Batman and Robin, e.g.
- 26 Tiresome routines
- 28 Covers for
- 33 Mouths off
- 34 Holy terrors
- 35 Track circuit
- 36 Slight advantage
- 37 Stocking shade
- 38 Novelist Morrison
- 39 Draw
- 40 Verne of sci-fi
- 41 Police emblem
- 42 Plane flaps
- 44 Man from Manaus
- 45 Sniggler's prey

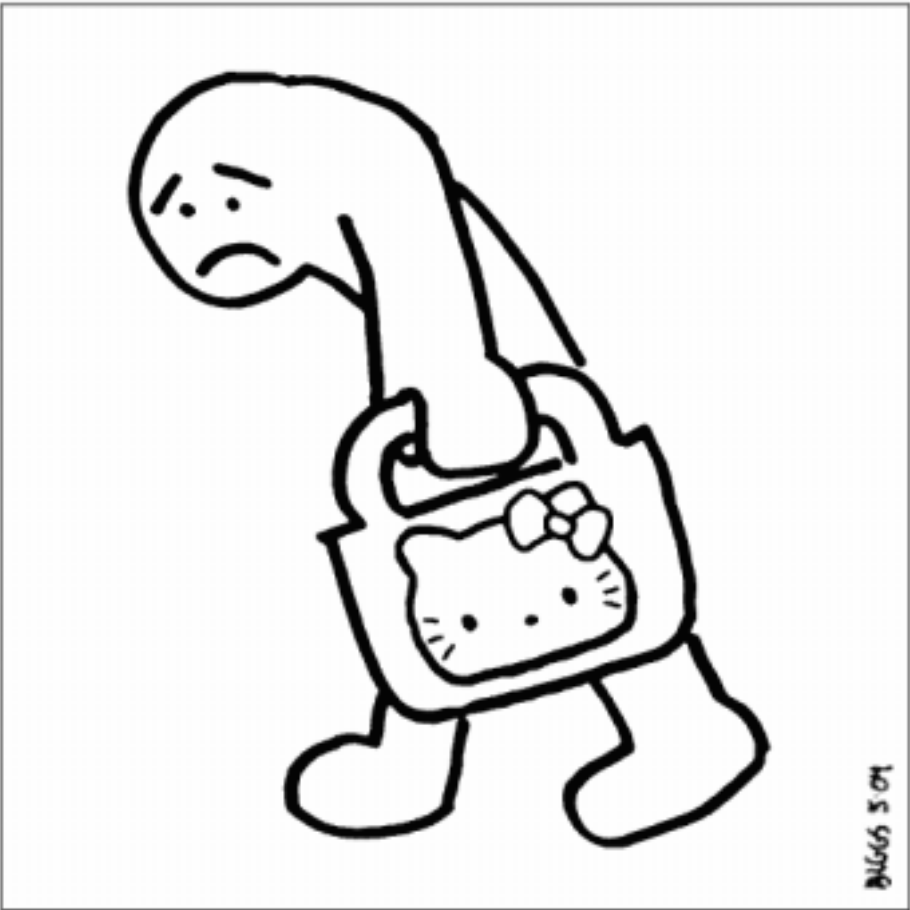
- 46 Tall military hat
- 47 Card cheat
- 52 High spirits
- 55 Fix a draft
- 56 Brownish pigment
- 57 Gem mined in Australia
- 58 Tumbled
- 59 Stacked up
- 60 Cozumel cash
- 61 Bit of gossip
- 62 Dance moves
- 63 Small deck member

DOWN

- 1 Gobi Desert location
- 2 "Atlas Shrugged" author
- 3 Malicious campaigner
- 4 Stallone, to friends
- 5 Trims to a point
- 6 Homer classic
- 7 Actor Guinness
- 8 Full-bodied
- 9 Short account
- 10 Jerk
- 11 U.A.E. part
- 12 Disconcert
- 13 Washstand item
- 21 Tenders an offer
- 22 Inning enders
- 24 Pot builder
- 26 Garbo of "Queen Christina"
- 27 Diameter halves
- 28 Is a busybody
- 29 Past of riches?
- 30 Clumsy bumpkin
- 31 Ballroom dance
- 32 Peeping Tom
- 34 Ring signal
- 37 Crescendos
- 38 Armored vehicle
- 40 Young kangaroo
- 41 Cartoon Yogi
- 43 State of health
- 44 Archaeological finds
- 46 Slumber
- 47 Adroit
- 48 Mental plan
- 49 Little streamlet
- 50 Discharge
- 51 Up to the job
- 53 Life of Riley
- 54 Gambit
- 57 ___ out (resign)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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47	48	49				50	51				52	53	54	
55					56						57			
58					59						60			
61					62						63			

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U.S. Universities with the Most Patents				
U.S. University*	Rank 2004*	2003	Number of Patents	
			2004*	2003
University of California	1	1	424	439
California Institute of Technology	2	2	135	139
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	3	132	127
University of Texas	4	4	101	96
Johns Hopkins University	5	7	94	70
Stanford University	6	5	75	85
University of Michigan	7	8	67	63
University of Wisconsin	8	6	64	84
University of Illinois	9	20	58	39
Columbia University	10	9	52	61

*The listed patent counts are preliminary counts that are subject to correction. The final listing of patent counts for U.S. universities in 2004 should be available in late December of 2005.

SOURCE: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MIT had the third most patents among U.S. universities for the 2004 calendar year, according to a press release from the USPTO. This is the 11th consecutive year that the University of California system has topped the list.

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4) Find out about useful resources

5) Free pamphlets and handouts

6) Depression isn't funny

7) Procrastination is your friend

8) Talk about sex

9) Talk about anything

10) Staying healthy

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MBTA to Install TV Network in Subway Cars, Stations

By Mac Daniel
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Desperate to raise more money without increasing fares, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority is preparing to install its own closed-circuit television network in subway cars and stations.

T officials said the plan, which calls for installing television screens inside subway cars on the Red, Orange, and Blue lines, could generate \$3.5 million in advertising revenues a year. But the televisions would mark a dramatic change for America's oldest subway system.

The network, which would probably offer a newscast in addition to advertisements, would be installed within the next year, according to the plan, which requires final approval from the T board.

Michael H. Mulhern, general manager of the MBTA, acknowledged Tuesday that some people may fear a further invasion of advertising into public spaces. But he said providing news on the network could add to the experience of riding the T.

"I think the technology is all around already, so why not on the T," Mulhern said. "If you go into

any of the office towers in Boston, you get a lot of the same information in the same way ... And keep in mind that it's in total alignment with our statutory responsibility to maximize nonfare revenue."

Because it is supported through advertising, the system would be installed and maintained at no cost to the T.

The T faces intense pressure to generate revenue and avoid steep fare hikes. The authority is strapped with the highest debt load of any transit agency in the nation and faces a \$10 million deficit in the fiscal year that begins July 1. In addition, T officials are expecting a decline in revenues from the system's more traditional advertising placements — on bus shelters, in stations, and on electronic message boards.

Details of how the television network would work have not been finalized, though Mulhern promises the system will be silent, with closed captioning and audio available on FM radio or FM-ready cell-phones.

Under a similar network now being installed in Atlanta, the subway and commuter trains are being fitted with five 15-inch flat-screen

televisions per car. The televisions on the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, or MARTA, will carry a 30-minute loop consisting of 20.5 minutes of local news from an ABC affiliate there and 9.5 minutes of advertising. The programming is updated throughout the day.

The Atlanta system is expected to generate \$2.3 million in revenue annually.

The technology is spreading as transit agencies nationwide seek new ways to raise money during hard economic times. Atlanta will be the first to bring television to subway and commuter rail, though its buses already have the televisions. Buses in Milwaukee; Orlando, Fla.; Chicago; and Norfolk, Va., have similar systems.

For advertisers, the transit televisions offer a relatively captive audience, in an age when consumers can find ways to skip commercials through technology such as TiVo and satellite radio.

"The more we tune out [commercials], the more important it is for advertisers to try and reach us, and that adds to the clutter that already exists," said Andrew Rohm, an assistant professor of marketing at Northeastern University.

In Orlando, Chicago, and Milwaukee, the technology is advanced enough that advertising for businesses along the route can pop up as the bus passes, such as a McDonald's restaurant, with a commercial featuring directions for walkers.

The changes have not come without resistance, however. In Milwaukee, riders complained that the televisions were too loud. Speakers were replaced to bring the sound down.

Mulhern, who is retiring June 1, said the next general manager as well as the T's board would have final say over whether the new system moves forward. The authority is seeking bids by May 1 from transit television providers.

Yesterday, at the JFK/UMass Station on the Red Line, riders were less than enthusiastic.

"That would really be a distraction," said Orlando Mebane, 53, of North Quincy, as he waited for a train.

Said Darrell Murphy, 37, of East Boston, "I'm too busy resting my eyes in the morning going to work, and I'm too busy sleeping on the way home to notice."

Mulhern said the television system might help the T elsewhere.

The complete network, installed at no cost to the MBTA, could make clearer stop and service-change announcements at stations. Riders have long complained about the frequently inaudible announcements made via the T's antiquated intercom.

Mulhern predicted that the system could expand beyond the Red, Blue, and Orange lines, but he said problems on the Green Line — especially involving the trouble-prone Breda cars — are a bigger priority than television service on that line. On commuter rail, a bigger priority is fixing electronic station signs, he said.

In another move to raise revenue, the authority plans to resurrect an effort to grant commercial naming-rights to the Route 128 commuter rail stop, in which advertisers have recently expressed interest. The T plans to ask for bids for the rights around May 1.

An effort in 2000 to sell naming-rights to downtown subway stations failed to attract advertiser interest. "We think unlike the subway stations, there's more of an upside to it and less of a downside," Mulhern said. "We think it's definitely worth exploring."

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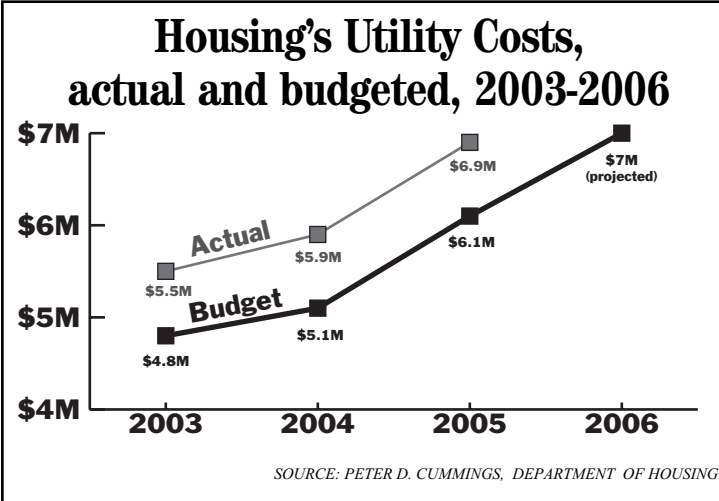
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Audit Requires Housing to Pay \$1M for Networking



Housing, from Page 1 about 6 percent of Housing's budget.

sees Housing.

This year, because of rising natural gas and oil prices, utility costs are projected to go up to \$6.9 million, \$1 million above last year's already-high levels. Housing's utility costs will be about \$2.2 million higher in FY06 than they were in FY03, the year before the cold winter. That is a 46 percent increase, representing

Audit adds \$1M network cost

In an audit report dated March 2003, federal auditors noted that MIT failed to properly bill phone and network costs for dormitories, fraternities, and independent living groups.

To correct this, Housing will start paying about \$1 million annually to support networking, according to Peter

D. Cummings, who handles finances for Housing. Payments will start in FY06; previously, Housing did not pay for networking.

Prior to the audit, Housing paid about \$14.50 per phone, while the rest of the Institute paid \$16.50 for the same service.

Federal regulations require MIT to charge the same rate to all users of a service if the federal government is one of those users, said John P. Donahue of MIT's Office of Sponsored Programs.

After years of negotiations and deferring this issue, this year Housing paid \$110,000 to IS&T to make up the \$2 per phone difference, according to Cummings.

The auditor's reports are available at http://web.mit.edu/cao/www/cao_index_reports.html.

Why \$17?

The accompanying chart has a full explanation, but IS&T is essentially raising the monthly rates for analog phones to \$20 per phone in FY06, and Housing has decided to pay a reduced rate of \$3 per phone to provide on-campus service only.

Total telephony services (including analog, digital, local/long distance, operators, etc.)		\$6.6M/year
Analog phone service		\$2.4M/year
4,900	Dormitory analog lines	
+ 7,800	Non-dormitory analog lines	
12,700	Analog lines (subtotal)	
+ 7,800	Digital lines	
20,500	Telephone lines (total)	
\$2.4 million ÷ 12 months		= \$200,000/month
\$200,000 ÷ 12,700 analog lines		= \$20/phone/month
\$20 - \$3 Housing contribution		= \$17/phone/month

SOURCE: ALLISON F. DOLAN, IS&T DIRECTOR OF TELEPHONY SERVICES

The \$17 is \$20 minus the \$3.

The \$3 campus-only rate Housing is paying is "not directly related to cost — it was a result of conversation with Housing," said Allison F. Dolan, IS&T's director of telephony.

Dolan explained that most of the costs to IS&T are the same for both campus-only phones and full-service phones. Both require the same

equipment in rooms, the same wiring to MIT's phone switch, and the same switch electronics to terminate the wiring inside the switch. The only extra cost is the per-minute cost of the calls themselves.

Similarly, inbound long-distance service does not cost extra, Dolan said, but it is part of the full service in order to provide an incentive for students to purchase the full service.

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Excerpt from 2003 Federal Auditors' Report

Auditors: "MIT incorrectly claimed \$700,000 of costs associated with providing network service to MIT dormitories and Independent Living Groups within G&A cost pool 210, Campus Administration during FY 2001 and 2002. In FY2001, MIT collected these costs under account number 1639700 (Voice, Data, and Image Networking). Then in FY2002 MIT created a new account called Residential Network Funding (1639220) to track expenses associated solely with providing network service to MIT dormitories and Independent Living Groups. Although MIT created a new account, they still allocated these costs through the Campus Administration cost pool. Based on our review, we determined that these costs are unallocable to sponsored agreements, in accordance with OMB Circular A-21, Section C.4. In addition, we also noted that this allocation process is not in accordance with MIT's disclosure statement."

...

"Our review disclosed that MIT did not bill these costs to the appropriate users of the service nor were they billed using a standard rate. The correct users of this service are the MIT dormitories and Independent Living Groups. Therefore, MIT did not bill these costs based on a standard rate. This practice is not in accordance with MIT's disclosure statement. We will be initiating a CAS non-compliance report to address this issue."

MIT Response: "MIT Concurrs. To ensure that the Federal Government is charged only its fair share of network costs in FY2003, MIT will perform a user analysis at year-end and will adjust research recovery appropriately. Beginning in FY 2004 MIT will ensure that all users are billed for network service at standard rates according to the type and class of service used."

SOURCE: DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY AUDIT REPORT NO. 2171-2002G10110652 <http://web/cao/www/reports/Audit2002.pdf> (pp. 299-300)

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<http://ballroom.mit.edu/comp>

Poor Data Analysis Cited in U.S. Intelligence Failures

WMD, from Page 1

an e-mail.

In their report, the commissioners “conclude that the Intelligence Community was dead wrong in almost all of its pre-war judgments about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction.”

The commissioners also studied American intelligence in Afghanistan, Libya, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China to address intelligence issues beyond the specific mission in Iraq.

“On a matter of this importance, we simply cannot afford failures of this magnitude,” the report states. “The harm done to American credibility by our all too public intelligence failings in Iraq will take years to undo.”

The report is available online at <http://www.wmd.gov/report/index.html>. An additional portion of the report is classified.

Vest found MIT experience useful

Vest, who has been a member of the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology since 1994, wrote that serving on the commission was comparable in some ways to his MIT presidency, and that “a lifetime of being around bright people working on difficult problems helped me to gain some insights.”

“There are interesting parallels between the multi-agency intelligence community and a large research university that is made up of many different departments and intellectual disciplines, each with its own culture and methodology, learning how to work together on interdisciplinary research,” he wrote.

“Therefore, my experience as a faculty member and administrator gave me insight into some of the organizational and personnel matters.”

Though his technical knowledge was “clearly helpful in some aspects of the work,” Vest added that “serving on a commission like this is mostly a matter of studying hard, listening carefully, asking a lot of questions, and working interactively with a very talented and professional staff.”

In addition, Vest stressed that the report “is not just about the failed estimates of WMD in Iraq,” but rather an attempt “to learn why some intelligence efforts were successful, and why others were terribly flawed, and then apply those lessons to improve intelligence going forward.”

Lack of reliable data cited

The commissioners found that one major intelligence failure across the board was a lack of ample data obtained. Furthermore, they found that what data were collected had not been thoroughly analyzed and subjected to a proper level of skepticism. This lack of confidence in intelligence assessments was then not communicated clearly to policymakers.

“In the end, those agencies collected precious little intelligence for the analysts to analyze, and much of what they did collect was either worthless or misleading,” the report states.

In Iraq, failures in intelligence stemmed from an “inability to collect meaningful intelligence on Iraq’s nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons programs.” Rather, “lack-

ing good intelligence, analysts and collectors fell back on old assumptions and inferences drawn from Iraq’s past behavior and intentions.”

The inadequate data is not limited to Iraq: “across the board, the Intelligence Community knows disturbingly little about the nuclear programs of many of the world’s most dangerous actors. In some cases, it knows less now than it did five or ten years ago. Analysts must be pressed to explain how much they don’t know; the collection agencies must be pressed to explain why they don’t have better information on key topics.”

This lack of intelligence was furthermore not clearly presented, but rather “obscured how little the Intelligence Community actually knew about an issue and how much their conclusions rested on inference and assumptions.”

The commissioners also emphasize that policymakers “must be prepared to accept uncertainties and qualifications in intelligence judgments and not expect greater precision than the evaluated data permits.”

For example, the daily briefings to President Bush did not accurately convey the doubts in intelligence, and instead “left an impression of many corroborating reports where in fact there were very few sources,” in effect “selling intelligence,” the report states.

Communication of intelligence must therefore be improved, the commissioners recommend.

In addition, the lack of adequate data collection represents changes in the intelligence world, necessitating innovation in how intelligence practices are conducted, the

report states.

Intelligence integration lacking

One source of intelligence failures has been the lack of collaboration among various intelligence-related organizations, recently leading to the creation of a Director of National Intelligence position.

“The Intelligence Community is also fragmented, loosely managed, and poorly coordinated; the 15 intelligence organizations are a ‘Community’ in name only and rarely act with a unity of purpose. What we need is an Intelligence Community that is integrated,” according to the report.

The commissioners specifically recommend increasing the leverage of the DNI and integrating the FBI more thoroughly into the intelligence community.

The commissioners also questioned the lack of shared information between departments, as “individual departments and agencies continue to act as though they own the information they collect, forcing other agencies to pry information from them.”

One suggestion for combating this lack of coordination would be the creation of “Mission Managers” from the staff of the DNI who would be “responsible for developing strategies for all aspects of intelligence relating to a priority intelligence target,” according to the report.

To facilitate this integration, the commissioners recommend additional Congressional oversight of intelligence, such as the creation of subcommittees in the House and

Senate intelligence committees.

The commissioners also recommend that the DNI “create mechanisms to ensure that the Intelligence Community conducts ‘lessons learned’ and after action studies so that it will be better equipped to identify its own strengths and weaknesses.”

Science training underdeveloped

The commissioners also cite a failure of the intelligence community to address the technical expertise now necessary for intelligence. In particular, they write that biological weapons pose a substantial threat that has not been adequately studied.

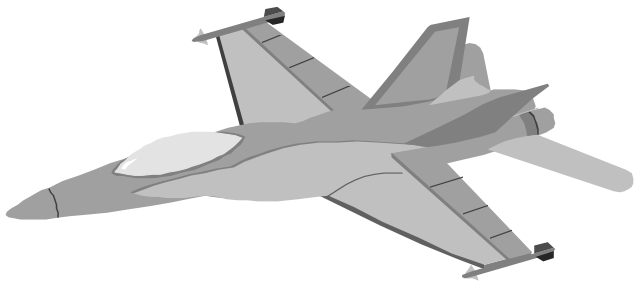
“Biological weapons are cheaper and easier to acquire than nuclear weapons — and they could be more deadly,” the report states.

To address the lack of intelligence officials with technical, scientific, and foreign language experience and background, the commissioners propose a new human resources office in the Office of the DNI.

The commissioners also advocate increased collaboration with the biological sciences community.

“The Intelligence Community simply does not have the in-depth technical knowledge about biological weapons that it has about nuclear weapons.”

“Technical expertise, particularly relating to weapons systems, has fallen sharply in the past ten years. And in other areas, such as biotechnology, the Intelligence Community is well behind the private sector,” the report states.



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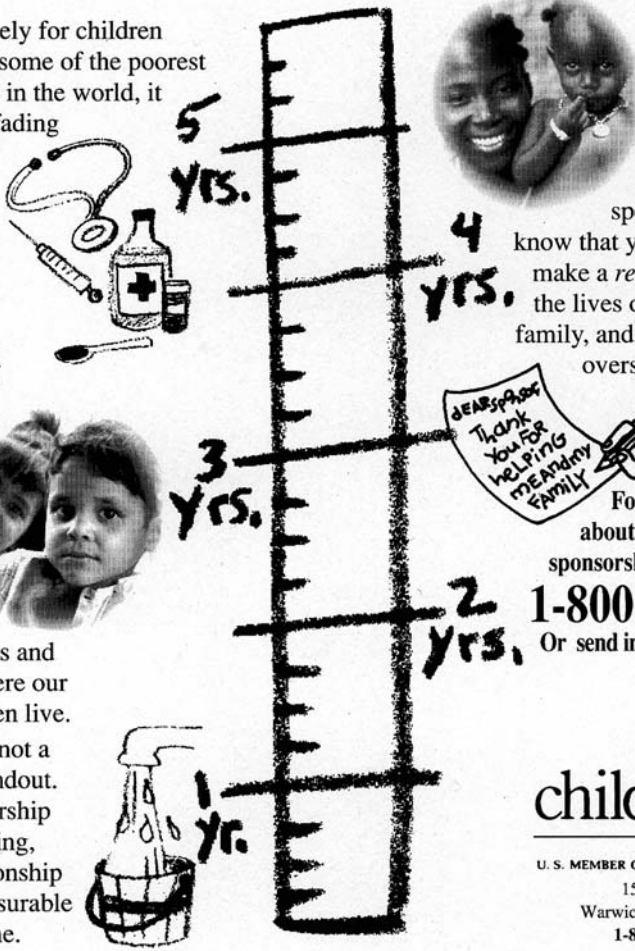
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Exploratory Subjects Seem to Be Successful

By Beckett W. Sterner
NEWS EDITOR

A total of 239 and 284 students declared classes to be exploratory subjects this fall and spring, said Anna Frazer, assistant dean of undergraduate education.

After the fall semester, 43 students ultimately chose to change to listener status after receiving their grades, she said. Exploratory subjects were introduced three years ago as a new option for sophomores to effectively drop a class after receiving the final grade.

Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine said that the program had been working well so far. "It's certainly not used by all students," he said, but he and others

evaluating it "were pleased" with how it is being used.

Students are still taking the classes seriously, he said, and there has not been a drop in their average grades compared with students taking subjects under normal registration.

While some students use the option on classes required for their majors, "more are doing it outside the major," he said, with only a minority choosing to later switch to listener status.

This year's numbers are approximately in line with those from the last two years. 302 and 287 sophomores declared a subject exploratory in spring 2004 and fall 2003, respectively.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Leah A. Bogsted '08 winds and delivers a pitch during MIT's 6-2 victory over Regis College on Wednesday, March 30. Bogsted fanned 11 batters and earned the win during the women's softball home opener, lifting the Engineers to a 3-6 overall record.

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Solution to KRT Crossword

from page 11

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T Fare Structure May Change

By Amy Lambiaso
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE
BOSTON, MA

The MBTA is looking to shed nearly 100 Green Line crew members, possibly restructure fares to reduce crowds during rush hour, and improve service to Worcester and Fitchburg, MBTA General Manager Michael Mulhern told lawmakers Monday.

Mulhern, who is retiring from the MBTA on June 1, said today that even after raising fares twice during the last six years, increasing parking fees and reducing service this year, and recently laying off nearly 50 employees, the agency is still strapped for cash.

And while another fare hike isn't likely for 18 months, Mulhern said he envisions the next adjustments to raise fares for riders during rush hour and offer discounts to those who opt to ride during off-peak hours.

"I'd like to think our next fare increase isn't an across-the-board fare hike," Mulhern said today after briefing members of the Legislature's Transportation Committee on the MBTA's budget proposal for next year. "The subway lines are saturated during the peak periods. We need to take better advantage of capacity that's not used, and most of that capacity is during the off-peak."

Mulhern said today that he has accepted a job at the international engineering firm Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., a leading firm in the pharmaceutical, chemical, and food products industry. Mulhern said he plans to remain actively involved with the agency after leaving.

Khalida Smalls, who coordinates the T Riders Union, said today that the fare-restructuring proposal Mulhern discussed is one of a number currently being discussed informally with advocates. Another proposal is to raise the base fare for trains or buses, while providing discounted train-to-bus transfers.

Since the state passed the so-called "forward funding" law six years ago — which funds the MBTA with 20 percent of the state's sales tax revenues, assessments on communities served by the T, and revenues from fares — the T has raised fares twice. Lawmakers do not control fares under the forward funding law, and T officials are not bound by the same political pressure

elected officials may have felt to resist raising fares, Mulhern said. The T's last fare hike took effect in January 2004.

"Forward funding is the best thing that ever happened to the MBTA," he said, adding that the agency is looking at utilizing non-fare revenue, such as using reserve funds, prior to raising fares again.

Mulhern also said he is looking to eliminate nearly 100 Green Line crew members, mostly train drivers, to bring the subways to the same staffing level as other light rail systems in the United States that use just one driver on a multi-car system. That change is being negotiated with union representatives.

In addition, the MBTA plans to save roughly \$25 million a year and "redeploy" 50 fare collector positions with the introduction of its Automated Fare Collection system. That system will begin in Blue Line stations in late April and extend to other lines this summer, with the full installation in early 2006.

Mulhern said he is also negotiating for "tough concessions" with the unions to control health care costs and benefits that have skyrocketed in recent years. Health benefits next year are set to rise by 18 percent, while wages will increase by 4 percent and pension costs go up by nearly 4 percent.

"I haven't hid the fact that we need to get tougher with the unions at the agency," he said.

Steven McDougall, president and business agent of the Boston Car-men's Union, declined to offer specifics on negotiations with the MBTA. He called it "ironic" that Mulhern would blame the T's fiscal problems on wages and health care benefits for its workers, considering Mulhern negotiated that contract.

"If he's calling us Frankenstein, then he's Dr. Frankenstein because he created us," McDougall said.

Mulhern also expressed his disappointment with the Legislature for rejecting his proposal last year to have the state pick up part of the tab for MBTA worker's health care costs.

Lawmakers did not offer Mulhern an explanation of their decision. They did, however, question T officials on what expansion projects and upgrades can be expected in the next few years.

Dennis DiZoglio, assistant gener-

al manager for planning, real estate and environmental affairs at the MBTA, said the T's "number one priority" is completion of the Silver Line's final phase, which will connect the Orange, Red and Green Lines to service the South Boston-Waterfront area of the city.

The agency is also working to complete the environmental impact statements for the Urban Ring and the Blue Line extension to Lynn. The Green Line extension beyond Lechmere and commuter rail service to Fall River and New Bedford are also under consideration, he said.

But after being pressed by Rep. Brian Knuuttila (D-Gardner) about commuter rail service extending to his district, Mulhern said increasing service to Worcester to 20 trips per day and making improvements on the Fitchburg Line are the agency's "top priorities" before embarking on other expansion projects.

In a multi-billion dollar bond bill last year, the Legislature authorized spending on numerous expansion projects. It is up to the administration to decide which ones advance within the restrictions of a \$1.25 billion annual bond cap.

In his recently released 20-year blueprint for the state's transportation network, Gov. Mitt Romney proposed having the state pick up the tab for costs associated with new transit expansion projects, an idea Mulhern immediately supported.

"I think for the first time it's truth in advertising," Mulhern said. "For me, that was an acknowledgement that we can't afford any expansion projects" without state assistance.

The MBTA carries more debt than any other public transit agency in the country, Mulhern said.

To meet its service obligations and live within its means, the T must pay off that debt in a more effective fashion, he said, perhaps by dedicating more revenue toward those payments each year. Next year, \$345 million of the T's \$1.2 billion budget will be spent on debt service obligations.

Rep. Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee), co-chairman of the Transportation Committee, agreed that the current situation is troubling. "This is really an issue."

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MIT's Division III Diving Champion Talks about Diving and Her Future

Holbrook, from Page 20

take a dive?

DH: Before each dive, the most important thing for me is to forget all the dives I've already done and all the dives that are coming up and focus on the one dive that I have to do. The thing that I concentrate on the most is not trying to make it extravagant or anything different but to do it the exact same way I did it in practice ...

TT: Were you feeling anything novel at Nationals you did not feel at previous meets?

DH: It was just another meet for me, so the feelings were pretty much the same, except the competitors were better and there was just a little more pressure.

TT: How did you react when you found out you had won?

DH: When I hit the water on my last dive, I knew that I had won. I just felt a huge weight lifted off my shoulders. I was still a little shaky, but I was really content.

TT: Do you have any good stories from the trip to/from Nationals and being there for almost a week?

DH: During warmups the first day, one of the best girls at Nationals hit the board and broke both her hands. None of us thought she would still compete, but she came back to compete both boards, and it was incredible. She didn't qualify for finals in 1-meter, but she ended up second on 3-meter and everyone was cheering her on ... [my] dorm [was] extremely supportive, especially the people on my hall. I got home from Nationals, and there was a big sign on my door, and they came to the airport with signs.

TT: What were your highs and lows?

DH: The one low was dominating during trials on 1-meter and being in first by a ton and then ending up third. The high was getting named diver of the meet and having my coach win diving coach of the year.

TT: Give a quick rundown of the injuries you've sustained through diving and pole vaulting.

DH: Pole vaulting: I've had a compression fracture to my right wrist. Sprained ankles — obviously, I've had a couple of those. I now have a couple of stress fractures in my left ankle from sustained injury,

I have bone damage to my tibia and to some other bones in my foot ... My back: one of the pads between the two discs is getting stiff, and so it doesn't move very well and so my feet will go numb occasionally. Oh, and I kinda tore a part of my shoulder this year diving.

TT: Did you fracture your foot before or after the championships? Did that affect your performance?

DH: I've had a couple stress fractures in my ankle since December, and I've just been training on them all year. They don't cause any problems. I can't do pole vaulting with them because it's too much pressure, but as far as diving goes, because the board gives and stuff they haven't caused me any problems, so I just trained right through it. So now it's time to make them heal.

TT: Do you feel like the fact that you've sustained a number of injuries through your sports career is going to hurt you later in life? Do you think the sacrifice is worth it?

DH: Well, I do realize that my body is getting beat up quite a bit ... in the long run it might not be worth it, but I think that the memories I'm making and the things I am accomplishing will make me a better person because of what I'm doing and so it will be alright.

TT: Which board do you prefer? The 3-meter or the 1-meter?

DH: This has been my first year doing 3-meter, and at first I hated it because it hurts more when you hit the water, and every time you screw up everything is amplified because you have that much more room to screw it up in ... but now I love 3-meter because you have more time to do crazier things — you can do so many more flips and twists than you can on 1-meter. Not everyone can dive 3-meter, but it's really fun.

TT: Do you find that the fans at MIT supportive? Do you sometimes wish there were more people coming out to meets?

DH: It definitely helps when there's a lot of people there because it influences the judges even though it's not supposed to, and it's motivational. Since I joined AXO, there's always been girls at my meets, and that's been great, and a lot of the track team

usually comes to the meets, so that's been good. But it always great to have more people out supporting us.

TT: How frustrating can it be sometimes to be in a sport where the scores are subjective? Do you find the judging is biased when you are at home versus when you are at away meets, or that there are definite things that will bias the judging?

DH: Absolutely. Especially at Nationals. It's very political because the judges are the coaches and they will, you know, "You scored my girl lower so now I'm gonna score your girl lower." But at these big national meets, you can sometimes get coaches teaming up against you. A lot of times if you just look at how each judge is judging, they always have a favorite picked and they don't consciously try to favor her but they do, which is unfortunate. But the nice thing they do at nationals is that you have seven judges and they alternate two panels of seven and they only take the middle three scores and so hopefully most of that politics gets thrown out, but not always ... But I think when it comes down to it they do the best they can for the most part.

TT: And what do you think is the best thing about diving at MIT?

DH: The pool is incredible, the boards are fantastic, the facility here is great, the coaches are great, the team is great. There's not a whole lot wrong. There's a couple small things, but other than that this place is awesome.

TT: You've already done exceedingly well your freshman year. What kind of pressure does this put on you for the future? Have you considered trying to compete in a higher division level?

DH: There's definitely some extra pressure. Going back next year, obviously, its going to be a tough competition to win both boards. I'm going to start diving year-round for the first time, and I will be going to some USA Diving competitions this summer and trying to qualify for Senior Nationals, which is ... basically anyone who's over 18 goes, the best of the best. I might not qualify, I might, we'll just play it by ear and see what happens.

Pistol Team Collects National Accolades

Pistol, from Page 1

Lin, and Diana Nee placed sixth overall as a team.

The next event was the women's sport pistol championship. In this event, shooters also fire a total of 60 shots with a .22 caliber gun. The first 30 shots are shot in six groups, five minutes each, and the other 30 shots are shot in a rapid sequence. The rapid portion requires the women to aim and shoot at a target 50 feet down range in three seconds with the shooting arms lowered at a 45 degree angle for seven seconds between shots. MIT's team of Seto, Diana Nee, and Christine Nee won third place in this event. Diana Nee won the individual bronze medal.

The open air pistol championship was held on the last day. The format of this event is the same as women's air pistol, except the competition is for 60 shots instead of 40. Schannon, Horvath, Lin, and Diana Nee competed in this event, winning with a score of

2209, followed by the U.S. Military Academy's 2191. MIT also snagged individual medals in the event, with Schannon winning the silver and Lin winning the bronze with scores of 561 and 557, respectively.

In addition to the overall team national championship, MIT took two team titles in specific events, and medals in five out of the six events. Schannon scored first overall in the National Open Individual Aggregate and Diana Nee placed second overall in the National Women's Individual Aggregate.

The Engineers also collected eight All-American accolades. Schannon was a first team selection for both free and air pistol, Horvath placed on the first team for air pistol and the second team for free pistol, Lin received second team selections for both standard and air pistol, and Diana Nee placed on the second team for sport pistol and won honorable mention for air pistol.

Watch Out for the Point Guards in the Final Four

Final Four, from Page 20

With trust in a talented coach, players can meld better into a team. That's how they the Cardinals blew by Georgia Tech and Washington, and that's how they can stay with the Illinois backcourt. Don't be surprised if Pitino ends up on top come Monday night.

... but so is Matt Doherty

Matt Doherty? That idiot? The guy who got kicked out by his own team?

Right, that Matt Doherty. He may not have had the trust of his team like Rick Pitino does, but he alone shaped half of this Final Four.

I have to give him a ton of credit for recruiting that terrific Carolina junior class. Together, Sean May, Raymond Felton, and Rashad McCants are unstoppable. Everyone admits that the Tar Heels are the most talented team in the country; it's the heart that has been lacking in recent years, and in fact, their heart is still being questioned.

None of that is Doherty's problem. His genius in recruiting the Carolina starting five might not be matched for quite some time.

Yet his influence on this year's Final Four doesn't stop there. Had Matt Doherty not been booted out of North Carolina, Roy Williams would not have transferred from Kansas, Bill Self would not have moved from Illinois, and Bruce Weber would never have gotten a chance to lead the Illini to St. Louis. I hope both Williams and Weber have sent thank you cards to Doherty for helping them inherit teams of national championship calibre.

That's why Duke went down — J.J. Redick is not a point guard. That's why Michigan State starts a freshman over a senior — Drew Neitzel is a much better ball handler than Chris Hill. And that's why when Raymond Felton left the Wisconsin and Villanova games, North Carolina ran into serious trouble.

If point guard play determines wins and losses, Illinois should destroy every team it approaches. Deron Williams is a far better point guard than anyone else still left in the tournament. His scoring average has gone down from last year, but his assists have gone up because he is like Jason Kidd in his tendency to look to pass first. He aims to set others up, which his terrific vision and great decision-making skills help him do.

Oh, and by the way, he scored 22 and 21 in his last two games. That's not too shabby, either.

Renteria Fits Well in Sox Starting Lineup

Red Sox, from Page 20

form of his offensive peak in 2003 (.876 OPS), which was much higher than the league average for shortstops. Granted, that performance came when Renteria was 27 years old, often considered the peak of a ballplayer's career. Even if Renteria puts up numbers on the order of a .300 batting average and a .800 OPS, he will outperform the majority of shortstops in the AL.

But this offensive upgrade at a defensive position comes at a premium. Therefore, the Red Sox are spending big bucks for the unique combination of steady defensive skills and a serviceable bat at shortstop for 2005 and beyond. However, Renteria is worth even more than market value to the Red Sox when one examines the entire starting lineup.

Part of the Red Sox offensive strength over the last two years has been their ability to field lineups without those "easy outs" in the batting order. Players that have on-base percentages (OBP) of around .300 can do a lot of damage to the offensive production of a team from day to day. If we look at the statistics of baseball, the most valuable and precious commodity is an out because there is a finite number of these per game. All else being equal, players that readily give the other team outs have negligible offensive value.

Consider the case of Pokey Reese, who logged over 500 innings as shortstop for the Red Sox in 2004. Now, don't get me wrong, I loved Pokey as a player, but Sox fans will admit that whenever they saw the infielder step up to the plate last year, the only they

were thinking — praying, even — was for him not to get out. As smooth and fluid as he was on defense, it was just too painful to watch him at the plate.

Now that Boston has secured a shortstop who has proven to be a tough out (.394 OBP in 2003), every single position player in the projected lineup for the Red Sox has had an OBP of .370 or greater for one or both of the last two years. It could have been easy to come up with a stop gap solution at shortstop until highly touted shortstop prospect Hanley Ramirez became ready for the major leagues, but this would have made the entire lineup weaker in the short term. Given the available financial resources and hefty competition of the AL East, I'm sure Theo had no issues pulling the trigger on the Renteria deal.

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SPORTS

How a Gymnast Became a Diving Champ

By Brian Chase
SPORTS EDITOR

Doria M. Holbrook '08 won the 3-meter platform and placed third in the 1-meter platform diving competitions at the NCAA Division III Women's Swimming and Diving Championships. The Tech interviewed her to get her feelings on diving, MIT, and being a national champion.

TT: How long have you been diving?
DH: I started diving as a freshman in high school, did the four high school seasons, and then came here and started diving.
TT: What got you into diving in high school?
DH: I did ten years of gymnastics, and when I was 13, I stopped doing gymnastics and played volleyball for a while, but ... it wasn't going that well, so going into high school, basically the day before volleyball tryouts, my mom said, "Well, have you ever thought of swimming?" I was like, "There's no way I'm going to swim. That's almost as bad as distance running." And so she was like, "Well, what about diving?" ... I said, "that would be awesome!" And so I called the swim coach and asked, "Do you have a dive coach? Can I be on your team?" He said "Absolutely."
TT: Do you think that your gymnastics early childhood helps in your diving ability? Do you have some ingrained tendencies that you think gives you an advantage?
DH: I was brought up not knowing if I was supposed to be upside down or right side up, so going into diving I'm totally comfortable

being in the wrong direction and spinning and flipping and being aware of where my body is at and what it's doing, and so it's given me an advantage a lot of people can't ever learn.
TT: Why did you come to MIT? Were you approached by the coach for the swimming or diving team, or was it entirely an academic decision?
DH: I wasn't going to dive in college, I was recruited for Division I pole vaulting — I'm a pole vaulter as well here. Coming to MIT was just ... I had a great tour, and I really liked this school, and it was one of those things where you get into MIT, you can't really say no. And so I just happened to ask, "Could I dive here, and pole vault?" And they said sure. So then I came.
TT: Do you view diving as a fun hobby or as a future profession? Have you decided?
DH: Right now it is just a hobby. [I'm] definitely looking into taking it to another level and being more serious, but I don't know that diving makes that much money, so I don't know if it is really a job-type thing.
TT: If diving at the moment is just a hobby, what are you looking to go into? What are you studying at MIT?
DH: I'm going to go into mechanical engineering, and I don't know where that is going to take me.
TT: What went through your mind while you were preparing to compete at Nationals?
DH: As I was getting ready for Nationals, I was just trying to stay calm and go through my dives in my head one at a time, just as I had been doing them at practice. Basically I was trying to remember that



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH
Doria M. Holbrook '08 takes a practice dive after the conclusion of the NEWMAC men's diving championships, held Saturday, Feb. 26.
even though I was a freshman that doesn't mean that I'm not just as competitive as the girls who were there for their fourth time.
TT: Is there a mental process you go through as you prepare to
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Four
Notes on
The Final
Four

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

With the Final Four starting tomorrow night, there are a couple of important things you need to know so that you're not surprised by the outcomes of the last three games of the NCAA tournament. From the coaches to the players, everything is going to matter in the final 120 minutes. Here are the four final things you need to know before you watch the Final Four ...

Rick Pitino is a genius ...
The last time Louisville contended for the national title before Rick Pitino arrived, I was only one year old, and the first Aliens movie had not even been made. Boy, a lot has changed since then. This year, Pitino will get to do more laughing than the Kentucky Wildcats and (very likely) the Boston Celtics combined.
With this trip to the Final Four, Pitino has become the first coach ever to bring three different college programs to this stage. His players trust his coaching abilities. They said they wanted to reach the Final Four for their coach, which is a rarity in this age of individual accomplishments.

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Renteria Is Expensive But Worth The Sox's Money

By Christopher Bettinger

Edgar Renteria has already etched his place in Red Sox history as the batter who made the last out to end the curse and give Boston its first World Series crown in 86 years. A few months later, he signed with the Red Sox, inking a four-year, \$40 million contract that cements his place as Boston's shortstop for the foreseeable future.
But what will the Edgar Renteria

of 2005 and beyond offer the Red Sox in terms of offensive and defensive production? More importantly, is Renteria really worth \$10 million per year? Theo Epstein and the rest of the Red Sox brass obviously concluded that he is, indeed, worth the relatively high price tag, and here's why.
Forking over \$10 million annually may not go as far today as it did 10 or 15 years ago, but it still might be enough to bring in a quality number two starter with an earned run average (ERA) of around 3.50. Or

perhaps a corner infielder or outfielder who puts up an on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) between .900 and .950, with around 30 home runs.
So why the hell are we spending that kind of money on Renteria, who's offensive performance in 2004 (.728 OPS with 10 HR) pales in comparison to the big sluggers who are drawing in comparable salaries?
The answer is actually quite simple. Shortstop is one of the most demanding defensive positions in the game. Consequently, a player with an established defensive

resume such as Renteria's (NL Gold Glove awards in 2002 and 2003) is highly valuable. His fielding percentage (.983) and range factor (4.30) in 2004 are both significantly higher than the corresponding league averages (.973 and 3.94). I also suspect that the Red Sox brass were hypersensitive to the issue of defense at the shortstop position considering the rash of unearned runs due to Nomar Garciaparra's inconsistency last season.
However, the hefty price tag for Renteria is not only a function of his

defensive skills. Renteria's offensive production was significantly lower in 2004 compared to his previous Silver Slugger award-winning years of 2000, 2002, and 2003. However, even in an off year, he still managed to offer up an OPS that was slightly above the NL average for shortstops (.723), despite playing half his games at Busch Stadium, which favors pitchers slightly.
Obviously, the Red Sox are hoping that Renteria will return to the

Red Sox, Page 19

OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH
Nathan B. Ball '05 clears 16'8.75" at a University of California at San Diego track meet held last Saturday, March 26. With this clearance, Ball now holds both the MIT men's indoor (16'5") and outdoor track records in the pole vault.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, April 1	Varsity Baseball vs. Fitchburg State College <i>Briggs Field, 3 p.m.</i>
Saturday, April 2	Men's Lightweight and Heavyweight Crew and Women's Lightweight and Openweight Crew vs. various colleges <i>Charles River, 8 a.m.</i>
	MIT Ballroom Dance Competition <i>Rockwell Cage, 8 a.m.</i>
	Varsity Sailing Boston Dinghy Cup and Women's Joseph Dublin Trophy <i>Charles River, 9:30 a.m.</i>
	Varsity Softball vs. Smith College (doubleheader), <i>Briggs Field, 12 p.m.</i>
	Varsity Baseball vs. St. Michael's College (doubleheader) <i>Briggs Field, 1 p.m.</i>
	Varsity Men's Volleyball vs. Johnson & Wales University <i>duPont Gymnasium, 1 p.m.</i>
	Varsity Men's Lacrosse vs. Wheaton College <i>Steinbrenner Stadium, 1 p.m.</i>
Sunday, April 3	MIT Ballroom Dance Competition <i>Rockwell Cage, 8 a.m.</i>
	Women's Openweight Crew vs. Buffalo and URI <i>Charles River, 9 a.m.</i>
	Varsity Sailing Boston Dinghy Cup and Women's Joseph Dublin Trophy <i>Charles River, 9:30 a.m.</i>
Monday, April 4	Varsity Baseball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology <i>Briggs Field, 3 p.m.</i>